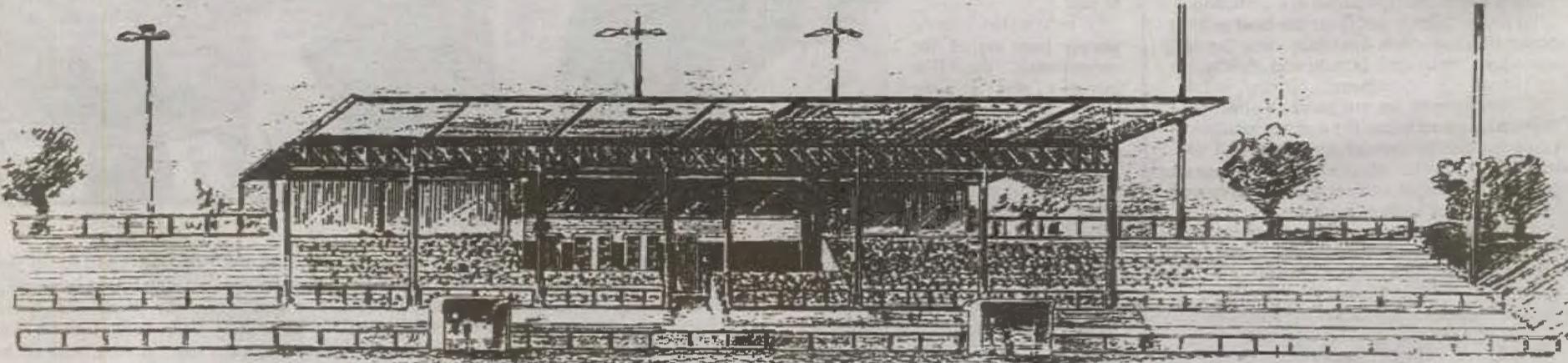


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RAIDERS SNARE MULTI MILLION DOLLAR STADIUM

MELBOURNE became a \$6 million soccer venue richer with the official opening of the Epping Stadium last Saturday night.

But the resident team, the Melbourne Raiders, made a less auspicious start at their new home, losing 2-0 to Victorian Premier League leader Port Melbourne on probably the best pitch this side of the black stump.

The club previously occupied nearby Partridge Reserve as the Thomastown devils and Thomastown zebras for 25 years.

The junior teams will still have their home there.

The Raiders have also started a women's team.

Encouraged by a free entry offer, a good

crowd, nudging 2000, had turned up to admire the roomy grandstand with a 1,500 covered seating capacity, spotless amenities and spacious car parking.

And above all, they'd come to watch a real spectacle on the grassy carpet of international standard, shimmering under the generous floodlights providing the right atmosphere for an autumn night full of anticipation.

"This is a beautiful pitch. The best I've seen. It beats the MCG," said Geoff Miles, chief executive of the Victorian Soccer Federation.

Financed by the City of Whittlesea, the stadium has been four years in the making.

The original plan was for a \$10 million com-

plex, with four pitches to national league standard and a stadium with a total capacity of 13,500 spectators.

It was to be built in four stages, stage one completed by early 1997 and the remainder before Sydney's 2000 Olympics.

But Victorian politics intervened.

Construction lay dormant for two years and the grand vision was trimmed down to a more modest scale.

Nevertheless, the completed version, more or less stage one, is a great asset that should serve soccer well in the expanding northern region of Melbourne's ever-spreading suburban landscape.

It is about 20km from central Melbourne, but within easy reach of its northern catchment basin.

The annual rent is believed to be \$15,000.

Joe Brondolino, VSF chairman, underscored the stadium's value: "This is a first class soccer facility and an ideal venue for the northern suburbs.

"The stadium will enhance soccer participation in Victoria.

"It will fulfil its primary purpose of promoting and developing community involvement."

Tony Cikoja, chairman of the Victorian Premier League said: "We must ensure that the stadium stays in the hands of premier clubs, and that it is retained for soccer.

"It needs another (second) tenant.

"It would be a shame if it was under-used.

"We must promote (use of) the stadium."

Cr Frank Merlino, mayor of the City of Whittlesea, confirmed the stadium would have the Raiders as the main tenant, but co-tenants would be invited, saying: "This will be the home-ground for the Melbourne Raiders, but it will be shared.

"It will also be made available to other clubs in the area.

"The city has nine soccer clubs, 56 teams and 1,000 players and many thousands of supporters.

"We must make sure all of them benefit from the stadium and its world

class pitch."

He was still hopeful the stadium would play a role during the Sydney Olympics, when soccer will be played in Melbourne, at again," he cautioned.

"They are going to have a look at Epping, but they favour venues close to the central business district."

chances.

"SOCOG (the Olympic organising committee) has had a look at venues and will look at them again," he cautioned.

"They are going to have a look at Epping, but they favour venues close to the central business district."

Raiders vice president Fernando Dimasi said making Epping the club's home was part of a five-year plan to push for national participation.

"We are gearing ourselves up for a future second division of the national league.

"We need the facility to do that.

"I believe a second division will come in the next two years and we're setting ourselves up for that level," Dimasi said.

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Sepp aims for harmony

FIFA President Sepp Blatter has said harmonising the international soccer calendar could not be done before 2005, making 2009 the first year in which his plan to stage the World Cup every two years could be adopted.

"We want to have a master calendar, but it is possible only after 2004," he said.

"Contracts have already been signed for competitions," the FIFA president told a news conference.

"We could start in 2005," Blatter said of the proposal to harmonise the soccer calendar.

He said it would not be possible to hold a World Cup in 2008 because the Olympic Games and the Confederations Cup would be held that year.

Blatter has already promised that, if his controversial two-year plan is enacted, the World Cup would not be held in the same year as the summer Olympic Games.

"Therefore 2009 would be the first opportunity to start ... and this is a possibility," Blatter said.

"This is not only an



Sepp Blatter

idea, it has become a possibility if the master calendar is successful," Blatter said.

Last month European soccer's governing body, UEFA, forced Blatter to back down on his plan to stage the World Cup every two years, but neither side ruled out the possibility of realising the plan in the longer term.

Blatter said the fact that the two-year idea was

being discussed and that it resulted in the plan to push for a harmonised calendar was a plus for the game.

"Even if we only reach a coordinated calendar then it is a win for football," Blatter said.

He also reiterated his view that the World Cup host nation should be chosen on a rotating basis, making Africa and Oceania next in line for the competition.

And FIFA will set the date for the draw for the 2002 World Cup qualifying groups at an executive committee meeting on March 11 and 12 and could yet open the door for more Asian nations to compete in the final stages.

At the same meeting the world governing body will rule on a complaint from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) about the number of slots allocated to the world's largest continent.

The World Cup finals will be staged for the first time in Asia in 2002 in an event co-hosted by Japan and South Korea.

Among other subjects on the agenda are the selection of the host country for the inaugural club World Championship in the year 2000.

Doping and sports politics will also be discussed.

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Culina pleads for local appointment

OUTSPOKEN Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina has urged Soccer Australia to appoint a local when it decides on the next Socceroo coach.

Culina (pictured) said Australia was now producing quality players, as shown by the exodus of players to Europe, and that alone indicated that coaching-wise the country is doing it right.

"It's imperative we get a local this time," Culina said.

"It's time somebody stood up for the locals as some of them do not have the balls to stand up for themselves," he said.

Culina, who was once

touted as the next Socceroo coach, could well have fallen down the list because he's prepared to speak his mind.

"About 12 months ago I was the hottest property in town, but not anymore.

"I'm my own man, if they want a yes man then it's not me," he said.

"But really you cannot go past a local, South Melbourne coach Ang Postecoglou would have to be up there, he's got the record," he said.

"We've also got to put an infrastructure in place where our Ericsson Cup coaches are given a chance to gain more experience by working with the national coach,"



he said.

Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella however has always said the federation would not be rushed into an appointment.

But with the Socceroos

playing a World XI at Sydney's Olympic stadium in June there is little time left for a coach to make his mark.

Scarsella also said SA would appoint a coach within its budget which is

likely to be very tight after the federation announced a \$1.3million operating loss.

That almost certainly rules out high profile Englishman Roy Hodgson.

Nogarotto vows to curb rowdy behaviour at Spirit

ANY Northern Spirit supporters found responsible for starting the crowd trouble in the recent NSL match against Wollongong would be banned from home matches for life, Spirit chairman Remo Nogarotto said in Sydney last week.

Five police were injured and a female officer was forced to use capsicum spray to help control crowd disturbances during the NSL fixture at Brandon Oval.

Sydney police said three people were arrested and two of them, from the United Kingdom, appeared in Wollongong Local Court last Monday on a series of charges including assaulting police, resisting arrest, causing affray and assault causing actual bodily harm.

The third man, a 26-year-old from Leichhardt, was issued with a court attendance notice.

Soccer Australia spokesman Phil Torpy confirmed police had used capsicum spray and batons to quell a section of supporters.

"Police were concerned about their safety and had to use batons and capsicum sprays," Torpy said.

Soccer Australia have confirmed that a full investigation into the incident would be carried out.

Torpy, an active referee, said the initial incident started at 7.30pm (AEDT) with just a couple of fans but escalated with 28 police and security officers called.

Nogarotto vowed to work with police and officials to find out who the perpetrators were.

"We have worked very hard to encourage a family atmosphere at all our Friday night home games and I am determined not to let a few

people bring that good work undone," Nogarotto said.

"We have been blessed with a tremendous atmosphere at North Sydney Oval but regrettably a couple of bad apples have jumped into the barrel.

"I will be working with the police in Wollongong to find out who the perpetrators were and if they are found guilty I can assure you they will be banned from life from attending any Northern Spirit matches at North Sydney Oval.

"Since entering the national league we have tried to show people there was a different way for soccer in this country, a successful way, and this way does not include behaviour like it has been alleged happened at Brandon Park," Nogarotto added.

In the statement, the Spirit said that Wollongong police had stressed



Northern Spirit: a total success in their first NSL season but with crowd behaviour concerns

the incident did not involve clashes between supporters of the two clubs.

The Spirit have had a successful debut NSL season, pulling large crowds to their home

A statement of facts tendered to Wollongong Local Court last Monday said John Thorne, 20, and his friend Stewart Johnson, 23, behaved in a manner that instilled fear in police and spectators during the match at Bran-

don Park.

Thorne, of Bristol in England, is charged with assaulting police, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, two counts of resisting arrest, hindering police and one charge of affray.

Johnson, who is currently staying at Kings Cross, is charged with assaulting police during the match. No pleas were entered. Both were granted conditional bail to appear in the same court on March 23.

Dunroon starts next stage of *Inside Soccer* expansion

AS a result of huge recent growth Dunroon Publishing, producers of *Inside Soccer*, have made a significant addition to its advertising team.

Steven Latta and Colin Kearton have both joined the firm as Wollongong-based Marketing Managers.

"We found it increasingly hard to cope with the response from commercial business houses," said administration manager Susan Campbell.

"The success of *Inside Soccer* this season has been staggering.

"Our newsagency sales continue to grow and while we still don't have a 100% penetration I have to be satisfied

with the current level which runs at about 85% of newsagents nationally.

"That is immense for an Australian soccer paper.

"But the big success story, or maybe that is because of our success at the newsagency counter, is on the advertising front.

"While we have been content to handle enquiries at our Corrimbal editorial office in the past that system has buckled under the strain.

"Steven and Colin will both work from our Corrimbal office which will allow them to handle the scores of enquiries which are coming through all the time."

Dunroon Publishing is also set to embark on an extended campaign of footballing supplements and club special features which will further strengthen its grip on the market.

"There isn't any doubt that we are the number one soccer publication on the market," Susan Campbell continued.

"We have quickly become the best seller and I am delighted that our commercial content easily outstrips our rivals. Over the next few months readers will see the continued expansion of the paper. Our growth's really just a reflection of the growth in soccer as a sport."

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Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

UNDoubtedly the best bit of news for the World Game in the last week or so was the establishment of Soccer Australia's Hall of Fame.

That it was long overdue is undeniable but that it is also a magnificent touch should never be undervalued.

Any society, or sporting association, which fails to recognise the achievements of those who made its history are failing in their duty, so, once again, I will applaud Soccer Australia for the achievement.

However, a less satisfactory note is the news of SA's massive deficit which was caused almost totally by expenditure for our failed World Cup finals attempt.

Almost half of that amount, or maybe even more than that portion if you were ever allowed to examine the actual books, would go to Terry Venables by way of wages and expenses.

Was he worth it? Well, only time will tell just how far the game advanced as a whole on that unforgettable early summer night in Melbourne when Iran blew out the flickering flame of yet another four yearly candle.

But the golden rule in business is that you can't spend money that you don't have – and we didn't have the cash to pay El Tel.

Because of that there are now over a million dollar's worth of creditors standing in the queue waiting to be paid by Soccer Australia and that reflects badly on the game as a whole.

Of course, if it is your own business then you can take a calculated gamble on a challenge paying off, but this business belongs to the Australian soccer community.

For that very reason nothing less than the resignation of the entire board of commissioners of Soccer Australia (at the time) would satisfy me as an individual.

I, for one, would not have tolerated that massive over-spending.

If I had been a commissioner I would have resigned THEN.

Of course, life isn't quite like that and I really can't see all of them going although the sharpened knives did appear immediately after David Hill stepped down.

CONGRATULATIONS Rugby League, you have pulled off another master-coup which makes our game once again look totally amateur.

Let us not beat about the bush, Rugby League is sick and dying yet it somehow managed to have the first hit out at Stadium Australia.

Naturally, the double header last Saturday night attracted a capacity crowd because that is the nature of Australian sports followers.

They would have gone to any half decent fixture in capacity numbers because it was the first of a kind.

They could all tell their friends and children that they were there the night Stadium Australia were first used.

The game?

Who cares, certainly not the tens of thousands who were streaming out of the ground an hour before the second of the double-header matches was over.

In truth, you could have played a game of championships marbles and there would have been 110,000 people.

But where was the National Soccer League?

Sleeping.

Stretch your imagination's alittle.

What size of a crowd would have gone to Stadium Australia if Northern Spirit played Perth Glory and Marconi or Sydney Olympic played South Melbourne on a similar double header.

The answer, of course, is 110,000.

If you doubt that for one moment spend a couple of minutes working out how many spectators the average Sydney-based Rugby League club has. Certainly no more than a club like Northern Spirit.

No, we have been done again.

Of course, the World XI game will attract a massive crowd but what promotional value could have been gained by having a National Soccer League match, or double header, at Stadium Australia.

Until we have people in the corridors of power who have enough knowledge of Australian sport as a whole and enough confidence in Soccer in particular then we will always pick up the crumbs.

TWO HUNDRED dollars for a ticket for the World XI?

Finally I have been forced into making a comment because I am getting fed up of being bombarded with questions on the issue.

If an average NSL fixture admission is \$12-15, then you would expect a Grand Final ticket to be in the range of \$30-40.

Following that line of thinking a medium international should be priced at the \$20-40 mark while a top flight game should peak at \$50-80.

This is a one-off; you'll never see it again in your lifetime.

Certainly, the \$30-70 tickets are good value.

The rest?

I'll leave it to Soccer Australia to give the final answer on that one – after all they have sanctioned the game. MY answer; it's a rip-off of the highest magnitude.

You-Know-Who
WHEN 'you know who' began his campaign to eliminate the two Croatian NSL clubs in their defence I pointed out what a priceless source of players they have been.

Now years later with Sydney United on the brink of collapse certain high profile experts are expressing similar views.

One even implies that this player source might dry up completely.

While this is possible it is not inevitable.

In numerous interviews with the media those playing with rather ordinary European clubs overwhelmingly express great satisfaction with their careers as professional footballers.

No doubt this information is widely known with Australia's Croatian community including those living in Brisbane and Adelaide.

If anything, this should act as a spur to those aspiring players of Croatian heritage across Australia.

In Sydney it is in the interests of the other NSL clubs, including the Parramatta club if it eventuates, to forge strong links with the soccer elements in the Croatian community.

Of course, with petty politics rife in Australian soccer this is easier said than done.

On the subject of the proposed Parramatta

NSL club, can someone explain to me how a grant of \$500,000 per annum will finance even a half-decent team?

If anyone has the answer then I am sure that all the existing NSL clubs would be most anxious to know how it can be done.

R Melor
Bondi NSW
(I must be smarter than what I think because that is an easy one, Robert.

You have to have people coming through the turnstiles to pay the other necessary \$800,000.

And that is the secret for everyone.

I suspect that Sydney United will eventually die because they just cannot attract enough

Your WRITE
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punters through the gates.

Donations are fine but if no-one wants to watch you then what is the point.

Maybe the current team, which is an outstanding tribute to David Mitchell as a coach and a man, just isn't Croatian enough for United's support base?

I'll leave that one well alone at that. – Ed.

Sydney Challenge
WHAT happened to the Sydney Challenge?

Such a big build up in all the Sydney newspapers and in Inside Soccer and then nothing.

Who won?

Obviously not Marconi but it must have been close with the rest.

Also, how about a story on the subject of the NSL becoming a promotion and relegation type league.

Could we support a second division?

Could there be one National League with promotion and relegation to the state leagues? (NZ

throws a spanner in the works there).

Is it being seriously considered?

Andrew Rogers
Harbord NSW

(I can only presume you are either a new or infrequent reader of Inside Soccer as we broke the story on promotion and relegation and then gave it considerable space until it became a touch of overkill.

The Sydney Challenge?

Well, after going to a press conference that wasn't and then waiting for a promised photo opportunity which never came we gave up.

I worked out that no-one else really cared either – even the clubs, once the prize money idea was ditched. – Ed.



World's superstars will be playing the fixture is nothing more than an exhibition match at the end of a long season with nothing at stake.

All of the great players will be very mindful of the need to avoid the risk of serious injury.

There is also the holiday mode factor to distract them.

While the promoters are sure they will fill the stadium I wonder how

many real soccer fans will pay these prices.

The temptation to watch the game on the 'Clayton's' soccer station, Channel Seven, will be very strong if only for the curiosity factor.

If, as I fear, the match is just another forgettable exhibition reminiscent of yesteryear but at a brand new giant venue then it will be very hard to demand excessive prices for the Brazil matches dated for November.

The Australian soccer public is very discriminating.

Once bitten twice shy as future promoters of meaningless exhibition soccer matches may learn the hard way.

R Melor
Bondi NSW

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Aloisi looking to be a Heart Breaker

SOUTH Australian Ross Aloisi is set to join compatriots Tony Vidmar and Mark Viduka in the Scottish Premier League shortly.

Aloisi, currently with French Division One Club FC Lorient, has been a regular in the French club's reserve team.

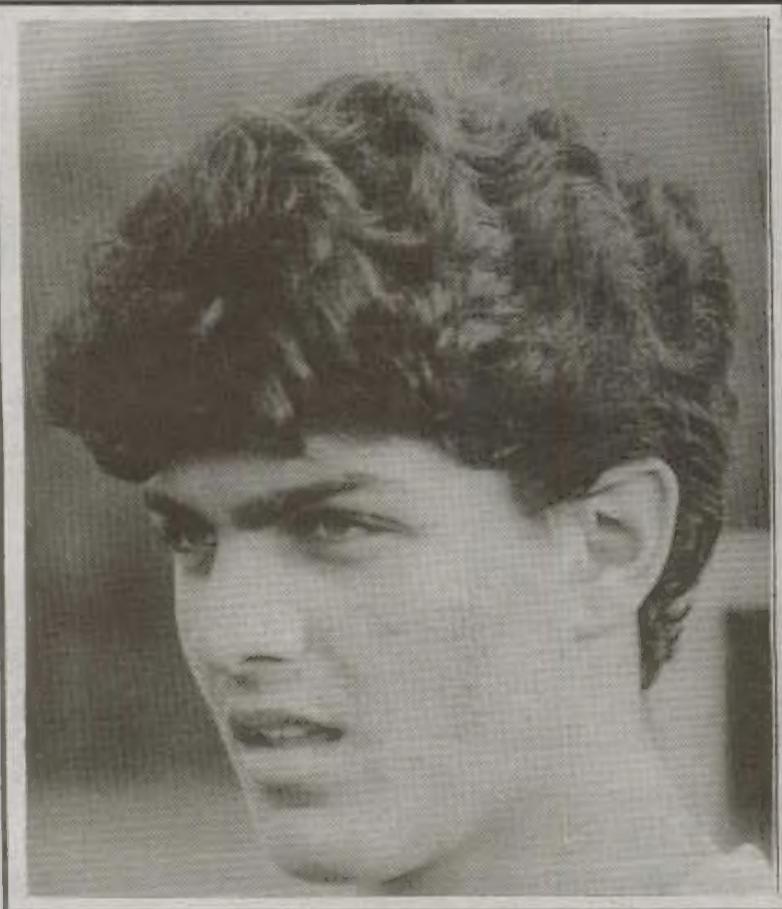
As he waits for Lorient to clear him for a move to Heart of Midlothian Aloisi is looking forward to getting back on the park in a first eleven line-up.

"I played with Hearts in a friendly against Ayr United last week, a match which they organised especially for me so they could see me play," he says.

"The first team coach was there, as was the rest of the coaching staff, and they seemed quite impressed with what they saw on the day, and from there they saw me training for the whole week, and they want to sign me for the rest of the season."

Playing away from home can be lonely enough.

Unable to gain a first



John Aloisi: set for a move to Edinburgh club, Heart of Midlothian

eleven berth makes it even harder.

But Aloisi is nothing

but determined, with that determination finally showing dividends.

"On the soccer side of it I've kept myself pretty positive, I've been fo-

cussed, and hopefully it's paying off ... I've been playing well and training well and now this deal with Hearts has come up," he says.

"Initially, a coaching friend of my brother John called me, and through some other people and an agent, the word got about that I was interested in making a move from France, and the following day the manager of Hearts contacted that same agent — and it just

went from there.

"It hasn't been all wine and cheese in France this has been one the hardest periods of my life, but I've learned a lot, grown stronger and become more positive, and at 25, it's time to make the move."

Hearts currently languishes in second last position on the Scottish Premier League Table ... with 11 games until the end of the season, the Edinburgh club will be

looking to its Aussie import to make that bit of difference.

Aloisi's addition to the Aussie battalion of the Tartan Army makes it four Aussies playing in the Scottish League — with Stuart Lovell at Heart's deadly local rivals, Hibernian.

Hibs are the runaway leaders in the First Division and it could well be that the two eastern clubs will swap divisions at the end of this season.

Stan says no thanks

Manchester City's bid to sign West Ham's Aussie Stan Lazaridis is on hold after the player asked for time to think the move over.

City boss Joe Royle was confident he had done a deal, claiming: "We thought it was past the post last night but Stan has asked for more time to think things over."

"I understand that.

"We want him on a month's loan with a view to a permanent deal if things go well."

Royle had already pencilled in Lazaridis for his debut at home to Northampton last Saturday.

Royle added: "He's a very strong running left-sided player.

"He played against Manchester City last year in the FA Cup and was impressive.

"He would certainly give us more balance but I accept he's thinking things over."

And latest indications from the former Adelaide Sharks star is that he will be staying put with a drop down two divisions obviously not in his plans.

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Life is tough away from the milk shakes and prawns

TWO Australians are in regular action in the German Bundesliga — and they happen to play for the same Club.

TSV 1860 Munich is the home of defender Ned Zelic and striker Paul Agostino, and with the club currently lying fourth on the league ladder, everything points to a positive European season next year.

"We're just two points away from second place and we're looking to finish at least the top three or four, which would guarantee a place in the Champions League next season," says the seasonned Zelic.

"Since the fifth round we've been in the top four and we want to cement that, and with 14 rounds to go, our goal is to finish top two for automatic entry, or at least third or fourth where we'll go through some qualifying games."

Zelic, who has been with 1860 for just over a year since his move from French club Auxerre, is enjoying life in Germany, as he looks forward to another season with the club.

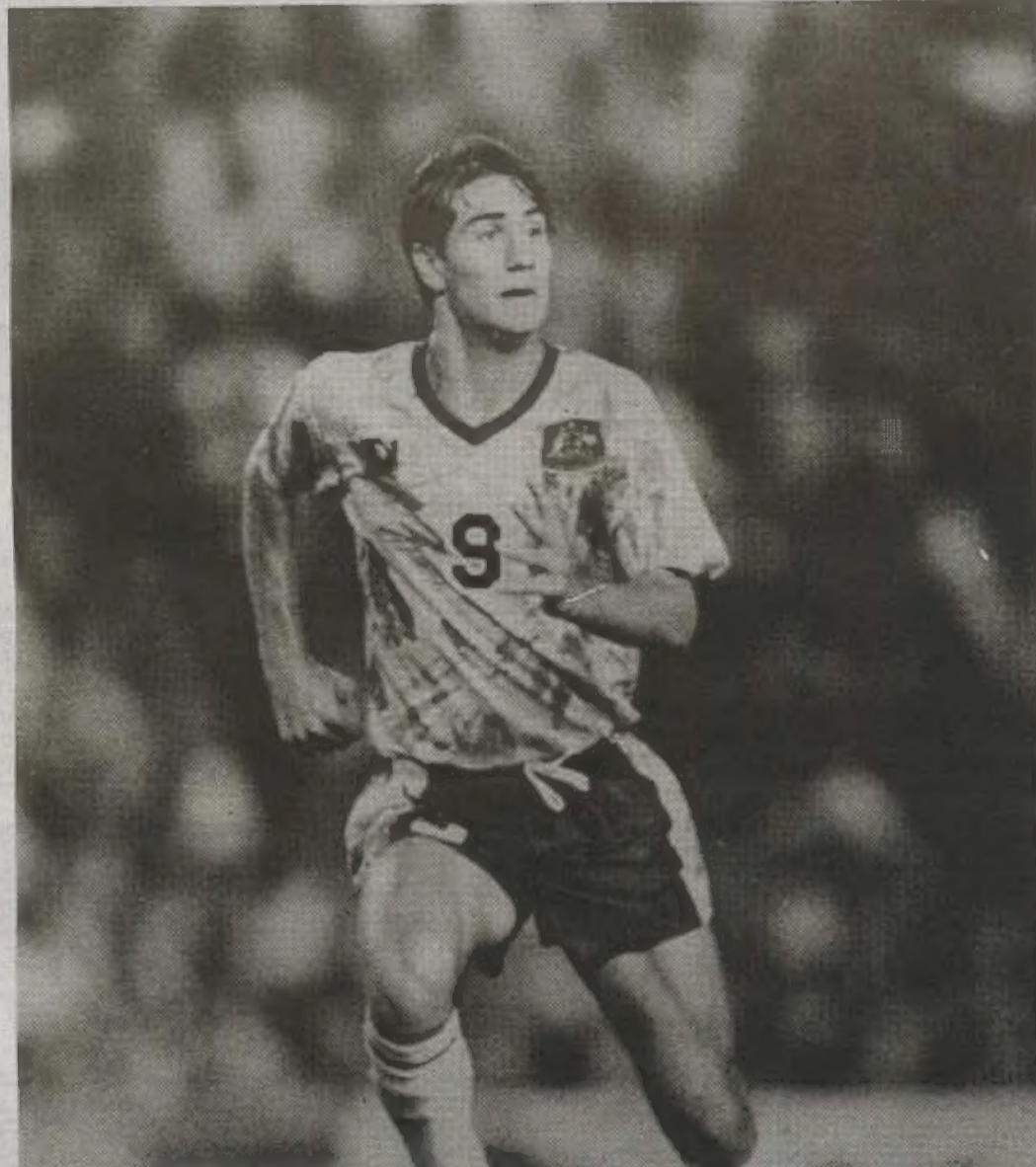
"I feel really comfortable here in the Bundesliga — this is where I started in Europe and after taking a few adventures into England and France, this is where I feel at home — plus the fact the team is doing well, it all adds up."

Over the weekend, 1860 drew nil-all with Duisburg, with Zelic playing a full game, while Agostino came off the bench in the 69th minute.

"Unfortunately it was a bit of a scrappy game, with a lot of chances to win but we just couldn't score," says Zelic.

"We didn't have the killer instinct to put goals away, but having said that, in this round from eight games there were six draws, four of them nil-all — so not many goals over-all in the weekend — it must have been catching."

"I played full games both this week and last week and it's really good to be in that rhythm again of week-in week-out — after all the injury problems I had over the years in France and at Dortmund, it makes a big difference on the physical



Aussie Paul Agostino: four Bundesliga goals for TSV 1860 this season

side of things."

Agostino, mean time, has to contend with the fact that the team has four strikers, with only two positions available in the starting line-up.

"We've played two games since Christmas and I've come off the bench in both those games," says Agostino.

"Since I've been here I've played 20 games with four goals to my name — naturally I'd like a few more but that will come with time."

"The team's looking really good, though, and as one of four strikers in the team the coach has got a good selection — all round we have a good squad and it shows on the park."

Agostino made the move from Bristol City in England two seasons ago, and it's been a matter of adaptation — and keeping fit.

"The first year was more of a learning process and adapting to the German style because it's

very different," says the striker.

"English play is a lot more direct with long balls, whereas in Germany it's a patient build-up — we play with a sweeper while they play a 4-4-2, so that was a bit difficult, as well as problems with a few injuries."

"In the second half of the season I have been recovering from a broken foot which kept me out for a good few months but I'm back and fully fit."

And the benefits of having another Aussie, particularly one with Zelic's experience at the same club?

"Ned really helped me settle in," adds Aloisi,

"and I guess it works both ways — he's told me it's good having me here, and it helps when you want to speak your own lingo, so we have each other to speak to."

Asking the two of them what they miss most about Australia is quite a revelation.

Family, aside, no, it's not the weather, or the beaches, or even the vegemite!

The milkshakes — in Australia, at the local milk bar, they make the best milk shakes — over here, it's just not the same quality and every time I come back I just pig out on chocolate milkshakes.

"My mum's home cooking — and I love Australian seafood — here you just don't get the lobsters and the king prawns — when I'm home, we sit down and have a feast of king prawns."

You'll just have to figure out who misses what!

And in other German action Tony Sekulic came off the bench in the 77th minute as FSV Mainz won 1-0 away to Karlsruher.

Goalkeeper Frank Juric played a full game as Fortune Dusseldorf lost 4-1 away to KFC Uerdingen, but despite conceding the 4 goals, Juric was

Zlatko waiting for the tooth fairy



AUSSIE Zlatko Arambasic is expected to be out for a further 8 weeks, following an arthroscopy on his left knee.

The striker, who plays with Belgian Second Division Club KV Mechelen, injured a thigh muscle in a game three weeks ago, with the knee problem soon after.

"The recovery from the thigh injury took two weeks but when I started running again, things in the knee felt wrong when I was doing accelerations and turning, so I went to visit a specialist because something was moving in my knee," he said.

"I went into surgery and luckily the ligaments were good, but there were two loose pieces of cartilage, and the specialist was surprised I was running around like I was."

"I've got them in a jar at home, just like my tonsils — in fact I'm waiting for the tooth fairy — or would that be the cartilage fairy to deliver some money — do you think I'd get some more money for that?"

The former Sydney Olympic and Blacktown City player, was Mechelen's top scorer before being sidelined, and the injury has probably come at the worst possible time.

"I'm out of contract at the end of this season, so I really could have done with a few more goals, but what's done is done," he added.

"You never know, maybe I'll be back in Australia before too long."

And another Aussie who could be playing Belgium is former Melbourne Knights striker Joe Bacak who is on a week-long trial with Belgian first division club RSC Anderlecht.

Currently contracted to Holland's Vitesse Arnhem, the 25 year-old will also participate in a reserves fixture for RSCA.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

SUTHERLAND SHARKS

v

BONNYRIGG

ROUND 6

Saturday 13 March

Seymour Shaw Park
KICK OFF 7pm

PELE LOOKING FORWARD TO SYDNEY INVITATION

By Ted Simmons

HE IS SIMPLY known as Pele but the words of Edson Arantes do Nascimento, a retired soccer player, still command attention throughout the world.

Pele, recently confirmed at a world football gala in Germany as merely the greatest player the world's most popular sport has known, continues to amaze with his non-stop travel and input into the game.

Speaking during a conference call last week in which MasterCard announced the renewal of its World Cup sponsorship and its deal with Pele, soccer's statesman dumped the idea of two referees for a match, said drugs were not a problem in soccer and a World Cup every two years needed more discussion.

Pele said it would be a pleasure to be invited to attend the match between the FIFA All Stars and the Socceroos to open the new Homebush Olympic Stadium in June.

"I always want to be where sport is being played and it would be a pleasure to be invited and also to be asked to

attend the Sydney Olympics," he said.

"It's important for football to be part of the Olympics because it gives an opportunity to younger players with the under 23 age limit and helps prepare them for the World Cup."

The only moment he strayed from politeness and diplomacy was when questioned about the value of a Brazilian senior team travelling to play matches against Australia.

There had been criticism in Brazil about the team playing against the Socceroos, a team regarded as less than worthy to meet the world champions.

"Sometimes it's more difficult to play against teams like Australia than some teams in Europe," he added.

"We know it will be difficult in Australia because it won't be easy to beat the Socceroos at home.

"Brazil has a new coach and a new formation for the next World Cup and it will be good to have these games to give experience to the younger players.

"We've always had a

good team for the Olympic Games but it's one of the few tournaments we've never won."

"We're preparing this team to win."

Pele believes it is tremendously important for the World Cup to be held in Asia and worked hard for Japan and Korea to co-host the 2002 championship.

As the first World Cup in the 21st century, he is confident the co-hosts will have a very professional organisation and better arrangements than their predecessors.

But a World Cup every two years, as floated earlier this year by FIFA president Sepp Blatter, will require more thinking.

"I discussed it last week with the FIFA president and there should be more talks but not now," Pele said.

"We know it will be difficult in Australia because it won't be easy to beat the Socceroos at home.

"Players have contracts, they need holidays, there is a time difference around the world and the public is also important but it needs a lot more discussion."



FLASHBACK IN TIME: Pele, the greatest

And then Pele launched into the area which probably provides more heated discussion among players, officials and spectators than any other - referees.

His recommendation was to have an extra referee behind the goals and to use television cameras in goals to assist

in reducing problems.

"At the last World Cup, one of the big problems was referees and I've worked hard with FIFA to get better officials," Pele said.

"They tried to change some of the rules during the last World Cup and it was a big mix-up.

"I've been having talks

and in future we'll be better prepared.

"If we had another referee outside the field or behind the goal, the same as in tennis where they have people on the lines to watch for service and ball out, it would become more precise.

"We can only have one rule on the field.

"Imagine if we had two referees in the centre and they disagreed."

Soccer's global ambassador, Pele has worked for MasterCard since 1991 and will be conducting clinics and making appearances throughout the world in the build-up toward 2002.

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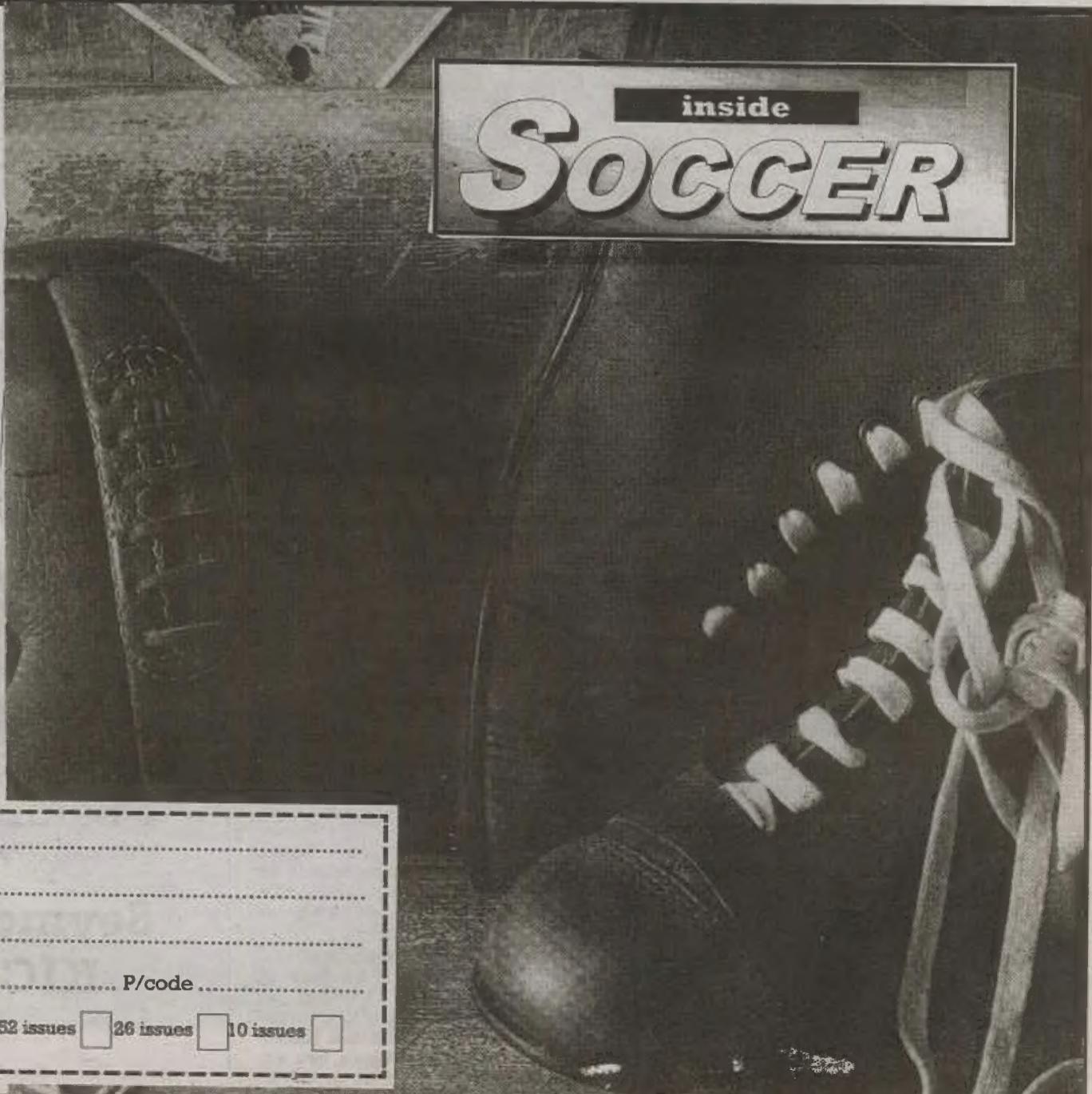
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Les keeps the young Aussies on ice

By Ted Simmons

NATIONAL youth coach Les Scheinflug will keep his team on ice and make a last-minute appearance in an effort to win Australia's first medal at a world soccer championship.

Scheinflug has named an 18-member squad to leave this week for training camps and matches in Holland as a prelude to the World Under 20 championships in Nigeria next month.

"We will be doing most of our training in the cooler conditions in Holland before a final warm-up in Spain and plan to arrive in Nigeria one week before the start of the tournament," Scheinflug said.

"Other teams have arrived too early when tournaments have been played in countries with high temperatures and the players have suffered from the heat.

"Our recent losses to South Korea in trial matches were a blessing in disguise because it has made the players realise they have a lot of

work ahead if they want to win a medal.

"The Koreans showed them the difference between national league and international football because they were up to two metres faster than the Australians.

"But I'm sure once the players settle down to concentrated training, they will gain the fitness and mobility to prove a handful to opposing sides."

Carlton defender Simon Colosimo will retain his captaincy of the Under 20 squad and will be keen to make a lasting impression which could carry him into the Australian team for the 2000 Olympics.

Scheinflug said a number of the Young Socceroos could progress to the Sydney Games, including Vince Grella, Brett Emerton, Marco Bresciano, Mile Sterjovski and David Ter-

minello.

Overseas-based players Grella (Italy) and John Maisano (Belgium) have been included in the squad, which has 14 members from national league clubs as well as

Mark Byrnes (NSW Academy), and Michael Turnbull (AIS).

Adelaide's Anthony Breaden will be the first choice keeper but could be pressured by the 16-year-old Turnbull who has come into calculations after excellent training runs.

"He's one of the young keepers to come out of the woodwork and has been playing extremely well in the Youth league competition," said Scheinflug.

"I've had him closely watched and the goalkeeper coach in camp also spoke highly of him in comparison with other keepers.

Group A
(playing in Lagos)
Nigeria,
Costa Rica,
Germany,
Paraguay.

Group B
(Kaduna)
Ghana,
Croatia, Argentina,
Kazakhstan

"He is tall, has safe hands, was good at closing people down and is also eligible for the next championships.

"In these cases, I must look to the future."

Maisano and Sydney United pair Sterjovski and Joel Griffiths will be the strikers with Emerton and Daniel Invincible also able to fill a front line role.

The squad has assembled in Sydney before leaving on Wednesday for Holland.

THE YOUNG SOCCEROOS

Anthony Breaden (Adelaide City), Brett Emerton (Sydney Olympic), Lindsay Wilson (Canberra Cosmos), Simon Colosimo (Carlton), Eddie Bosnar (Northern Spirit), Paul Wearne (Nth Spirit), Jason Culina (Sydney Olympic), Vince Grella (Empoli, Italy), Marco Bresciano (Carlton), John Maisano (Westerlo, Belgium), Mile Sterjovski (Sydney United), David Terminello (Adelaide City), Michael Santalab (Sydney United), Tynan Scope (Coventry City, UK), Brad Swancott (Newcastle), Daniel Watkins (Northern Spirit).

World Youth
Championships 1999
NIGERIA
April 3-24

(Sydney United), Mark Byrnes (NSW Academy), Michael Turnbull (AIS). COACH: Les Scheinflug

Standby players: Adriano Cuzzupe (St Melbourne), Travis Dodd (Adelaide City), Ivan Ergic (AIS), Michael Ferrante (West Ham, UK), Martin John (Melbourne Knights), Matt Langdon (Nth Spirit), Paul Reid (Wollongong), Nick Sabljak (Adelaide City), Michael Santalab (Sydney United), Tynan Scope (Coventry City, UK), Brad Swancott (Newcastle), Daniel Watkins (Northern Spirit).

Schedule still to be released

Australia has drawn Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Ireland as its first-round opponents for the FIFA World Youth Championship.

Defending champion Argentina drew Ghana, Croatia and Kazakhstan, with host country Nigeria drawing Costa Rica, Germany and Paraguay for the under-20 tournament, played from April 3-24 at eight cities throughout this West African nation.

Argentina has won the past two World Youth Championships, beating Uruguay 2-1 in 1997 to win its last victory in Malaysia.

The complete schedule for the 1999 tournament has not yet been released, though Nigeria will face Costa Rica on April 3 in the first match, to be held in Lagos.

Group C
(Ibadan)
Australia,
Saudi Arabia,
Mexico,
Ireland.

Group D
(Enugu)
Uruguay,
Mali,
Korea,
Portugal.

Group E
(Kano and Bauchi)
Cameroon,
Japan,
England,
United States.

Group F
(Port Harcourt and
Calabar)
Zambia,
Honduras, Spain,
Brazil.

Stadium Australia Opening: I was there

By John Salvado

KELLY Hampton has watched plenty of rugby league in a lot of stadiums in recent times as the girlfriend of Newcastle Knights frontrower Glenn Grief.

But sitting right on the halfway line, just a dozen rows from the fence on Saturday as the \$690 million main Olympic Stadium came gloriously to life was a sporting experience on a whole new level.

"This place is just unbelievable - even better than I thought," Hampton said after taking her seat alongside the other Newcastle players' partners amid a world record rugby league crowd of 104,583 for the NRL double header.

"I'm surprised how good the view is and the atmosphere's just terrific."

Mike Copeland, from the northwestern Sydney suburb of Pennant Hills, was seated in the back row on level six of one of the two main grand-

stands with his family. The view from up in the gods in the biggest Olympic stadium ever built is like looking down on an outsized chess board, but he wasn't complaining.

"I've watched the stadium being built and I just really wanted to be here for the opening match," he said.

"Even up here the view's quite OK, you get used to the height."

Copeland's only minor gripe was that it was hard to understand the audio system high in the grandstand, while some spectators noted that it got hot under the sloping roof on a perfect sunny Sydney day when the temperature topped 28 degrees.

But their predominantly positive impressions reflected a great first day out for the stadium that will host the opening and closing ceremonies, the athletics and the men's soccer final at the 2000 Olympics.

The biggest test for Olympic organisers was

always going to be getting fans to and from Homebush Bay, with a record 82,000 people arriving and leaving by train or bus.

The anticipated post-game hold-ups at the train station never eventuated, with the site cleared of spectators just over an hour after Parramatta had beaten St George-Illawarra 20-10 in the second game.

Olympics minister Michael Knight said the biggest transport glitch came when one west-bound train was sent east because of a signalling error and otherwise it went "much smoother than expected".

"The crowd really made it, the atmosphere of having 105,000 in the stadium and having them understand that we were still learning, that there would be hiccups - they really got into the spirit of it," he said.

"If you compare that to trying to get a crowd about a third the size of that out of Moore Park (home of the Syd-

ney Cricket Ground and the Sydney Football Stadium), where you can get gridlocks for a couple of hours, it was a pretty good performance."

The record crowd was well aware it was witnessing Australian sporting history in a state of the art venue, which was built in less than two and a half years.

With 15 kitchens servicing seven restaurants and 72 food stands, plus 53 bars, the catering was on a level never before seen at an Australian sporting venue.

Fast food traditionalists could still indulge in a pie or hot dog, but more esoteric tastes were also catered for with Greek salad (\$5.50), vegetarian spring rolls on a bed of rice noodles (\$6.50) and chicken focaccia with eggplant and tomato (\$5.50) on the menu.

The combination of a huge crowd and hot weather meant the beer queues early in the day stretched at times for 30m, but there were surprisingly few complaints

from punters waiting for one or more of the 85,000 schooners staff were able to serve every hour.

It was also a very quiet night for police with just one person arrested for assault and resisting arrest, five others issued with notices for offensive behaviour and 24 spectators ejected from the stadium.

Queues for the 1,500 toilets also did not get too far out of hand on an occasion that exceeded Stadium Australia executive director Chris Chapman's expectations.

"I was delighted, given the fact that we took possession of this stadium at

11.32pm on Wednesday night and you can see for yourself that there are some things that are not yet quite spick and span," he said.

"I acknowledge there are a lot of things to improve on ... but in terms of the big picture, in terms of the services ... I was delighted."

After the huge public response to the NRL double-header, Chapman is confident of further sell-outs this year for other big events including a soccer international between Australia and the World All Stars (June 9) and the NRL grand final on September 26.

But last night the stadium had the best of all possible beginnings in front of more than 100,000 people who'll be able to tell their grandchildren: I was there.

SEE EDITORIAL page 4 for the night soccer missed out.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 6

EASTERN SUBURBS WANDERERS v FAIRFIELD BULLS

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Kossie starts his winning run

By Michael Crutcher

BRISBANE Strikers coach John Kosmina is embracing a change of fortune as his team's national soccer league finals hopes went on the line at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

For the first time in his inaugural season with the Strikers, Kosmina was able to call on a full-strength squad for the clash with the Wollongong Wolves.

That left the former Socceroo-captain with a selection dilemma with the return from suspension of experienced defenders Glenn Gwynne and Chris Zoricich.

The pair were missing when the Strikers drew 0-0 with second-bottom Melbourne Knights last Saturday night, costing the 1997 champion vital points and pushing them back to ninth with just eight rounds remaining.

"I was really happy with Andrew Davidson and Matty Bell in those positions last weekend," Kosmina said before the game.

"Gwynne and Zoricich had to come back sooner or later and this is the first time all season we've had a fully fit squad. I've got 20 players to choose from - it's a luxury."

The Strikers must win at least another four of their final seven matches to have any hope of a play-off appearance and Kosmina said there was an air of confidence at the club.

"I'd like to win five matches and we're more than capable of doing that. We have four very winnable games at home," he said before starting out on a winning note by taking the three-pointer against Wollongong.

"I was really happy with our performance the weekend before because we made some good chances although we didn't make the most of them. Part of it was bad luck.

"We conceded 11 goals in two games previous to that and you have to realise that Melbourne Knights are still technically a good side."



Brisbane Strikers: coach John Kosmina says his squad is confident of making the Top Six play-offs after beating Wollongong

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Carlton lose one Kiwi – and sign another

Carlton Soccer Club last week announced the signing of New Zealander, Riki Van Steeden.

The 22-year-old is a member of the New Zealand Olympic squad, and was rushed into the Carlton side for their match against Canberra Cosmos.

Van Steeden, who played for Christchurch, was slotted into a defensive role alongside former team-mate Sean Douglas.

Carlton Coach Eddie Knezevic said: "Riki is a solid defender, and will fill the defensive void, following the departure of Simon Colosimo on national duty."

But while Carlton gained one Kiwi they lost another one with the news that Mark Atkinson is out for the rest of the season.

Atkinson ruptured the medial ligament in his left knee.

Last Friday he underwent surgery, effectively ruling him out for the rest of the 1998/99 Ericsson Cup.



Mark Atkinson: injury will see him out for the rest of the season

INSIDE SOCCER Australia's weekly soccer Bible **OUT EVERY TUESDAY** – coast to coast

Blues get the timing right

Inside Soccer's David Arnold takes a realistic peak at the Carlton situation



THE Melburnian has heard it all before and is getting tired of it, frankly.

A team which caters for all Australians, a team with a winning pedigree that will finally pack them in and show the NSL what it's about.

Collingwood started the 1996-97 season winning the pre-season Johnnie Walker Cup and the pundits were predicting the new outfit would emulate Alexander the Great on his conquest through Asia Minor.

12,000 turned up at the first league match against cross-town rivals the Knights, saw Collingwood grind out a win and went home thinking this soccer lark wasn't so bad after all.

But Collingwood was built on shifting sands, with most of the shifting coming from the AFL club.

Already in financial strife, and once they knew of the financial problems involved with a start-up club in its formative years, Collingwood AFL pulled out of the joint venture leaving 'Collingberg' (as they were sardonically known) up the creek.

The early interest, so optimistic, had petered out, with the selection of Matic as coach a major factor.

Matic's preference for defensive, dour teams and lack of a champion goalscorer (Mori was playing in the Bundesliga at the time) resulted in a team grinding out draws, defeats and the occasional victory.

The fans weren't impressed and began leaving in droves.

It was by no means all Matic's fault - the Collingwood board was a comedy tape in itself - but simply a negative approach wasn't what the punter wanted.

Matic could claim he had no cattle in which to cook steak, and a look at the playing roster confirms it.

Lozanovski, Juric, Vla-

hos and Tapai had the team built around them, but the typical injuries to Lozanovski, the fact Juric would leave after one season ...

Probably the death knell came in the game against the other new boys, Perth.

A horribly cold day and two teams without either wit or invention saw the crowd fleeing for the exits with the game still in progress.

Collingwood would play their last games out of Olympic Park, in the freezing cold of a Melbourne autumn night.

They went from 12,000 at the beginning to 300 at the end.

Keeping an eye on this was Lou Sticca, who was thinking of Carlton vs Collingwood, but in a summer climate.

Sticca was running out of ink writing a lengthy list of things not to do: announcements in Greek over the PA, lack of a match programme at the first league game, poor selection of coach, lack

of quality players, making sure the AFL club knew what were getting into and so on.

You could see the frustration and growing anger of Sticca, he had spent countless hours and money chasing a dream, was about to realise it, when someone else copied his idea, got in first, and worst, totally got it wrong.

"They came in a year too early and only messed it up for the neutral fan," Sticca said.

He set out to make Carlton Australia's biggest and most successful club.

Krnecic, Incantalupo, Olver on the coaching staff, Jack Reilly and import-exporter John Valmordiba for the board and a superb Youth and Colts set-up to round it off.

Carlton were fully expecting 20,000 for their first game, but only 7,000 turned up, a major disappointment to the club.

The crowd average is just above 3,000, a poor

return for the quality of soccer and individual talent on display at Optus Oval.

But Optus Oval has a cricket pitch running down the wing, no terracing like Perth, throw in the Collingberg fiasco and it's reasonable to ask what's a reasonable crowd?

Then Carlton Social made it known they would no longer be providing assistance to the Soccer club and would they please vacate Optus Oval soonish.

A sports fan at heart, Peter Jess has branched out from his accountancy profession to represent athletes in multi-sports such as Athletics, AFL and Soccer.

Among his first soccer clients were two Victorian youngsters, Joey di Orio and Michael Ferrante, both now at first division overseas clubs, di Orio at Werder Bremen in Germany and Ferrante at West Ham, with Jess involved in both moves.

Jess initially wanted to become a licensed FIFA Player Agent, but was bitten by the soccer bug and began looking

around for more opportunities to become involved with the local game.

He decided on Carlton, and after Sticca came on board as a director of Network Sports, they bid for the licence with a consortium of business

The \$1.5M paid to Carlton Social will realise a hefty profit for Carlton Social's initial investment.

The future for the new team looks excellent, with the influence of Jess and the acumen of Sticca running the new team which will play out of either Bob Jane Stadium, the Docklands and of course Olympic Park, with the decision to be made soon.

Olympic Park is the safe and obvious choice, but it is a poor venue, with the running track and Grandstands built so far back, the fan is iso-

lated.

With Jess feeling re-

badging is needed for Carlton to become truly

successful, the name

Melbourne United has received lukewarm re-

sponse among Carlton

fans - unoriginal and bor-

ing.

Melbourne Blues is

more popular and reflects

the classical strip Carlton

turn out in.

The initial two-year

contracts for the playing

staff expire this winter,

but at least three quarters

of the existing squad will

return next season.

Sean Douglas, Andrew

Marth, Lubo Lapsansky,

Archie Thompson, Joe

Tricarico and Alex

Moreira are some of the

names committed to see-

ing out the millennium in

royal blue.

So for the third time in

three years, the Mel-

burnian has to pack up

and move allegiance,

from inner-city suburban

AFL grounds to Olympic

Park.

This time, just this

time, the timing is right.

Pepe back for South

South Melbourne Soccer Club will hold their second Sponsors' Luncheon for the 1998/99 Ericsson Cup season on Friday, 12th March 1999 at the Crown Palladium.

The guest speaker for this luncheon will be Mr. Peter Abraam, a former Director of the South Melbourne Soccer Club who was recently appointed Chief Executive Officer of Melbourne Major Events.

Peter was Operations Manager of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation and has resigned from his post to take up this prominent position effective from the end of the current Grand Prix.

Pele wins in court

SOCCER superstar Pele won damages of \$US293,000 in a civil lawsuit against the Brazilian football federation and publisher Editora Abril for unauthorised use of photographs.

The photographs appeared in an album under the auspices of the federation published in 1988 in which Pele appeared 21 times including the front cover.

No way back; El Tel

Former Socceroo coach Terry Venables has ruled himself out of a return to managing the England team.

Venables has been consistently mentioned in speculation about who will take over the job later this year.

Kevin Keegan last month answered an SOS from the Football Association and replaced Glenn Hoddle after his sudden sacking for controversial comments about the disabled.

Keegan, however, is adamant he will lead the side only through its European Championship qualifiers until June, and then concentrate solely on his second division club Fulham.

Venables had his doubts about giving the job to Keegan on that basis and also voiced his opposition to a foreign coach taking over.

Though a popular choice with fans after taking England to the semi-finals of Euro 96, Venables had been seen as a doubtful choice because of an acrimonious split with the FA when that assignment was over.

FA officials have recently denied he was out of the running, but Venables took himself out of contention.

"It's too late now - I'm no longer interested in the job," he told the Daily Mail.

Bozza plays in secret trial

By John Curtis

Coventry City at Highfield Road on October 3.

But he returned between the posts in a hush-hush encounter with Football Conference side Stevenage at Villa Park on Friday.

Bosnich did not quite manage to achieve the clean sheet he was looking for as Villa romped to a 5-1 success against last season's FA Cup giant-killers. Bosnich, who has been

on the bench for Villa's last two Premiership matches against Wimbledon and Coventry, is set to replace Michael Oakes.

Former England Under-21 goalkeeper Oakes has played in Villa's last 24 matches - his longest run of first-team football.

But his confidence and form have showed signs of wavering in recent matches and Villa con-



ceded 13 goals in the past six games. Oakes is still waiting too to see whether he has

a long-term future at Villa and he has 15 months left of his current deal.



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AUSTRALIA'S BEST SELLING SOCCER PUBLICATION. Inside Soccer. For the football fan in you.

Sydney's state-of-the-art stadium ready for massive crowds

By Paul Millar

FASTER, higher, stronger is the inspiring theme for every Olympian and it's not far off the mark when it comes to Olympic stadiums.

Stadium Australia is the biggest Olympic venue ever with a capacity of 110,000 which is 30,000 greater than the Munich '72 venue - regarded as one of the first ever super stadiums.

The Sydney stadium is 14 storeys high, cost \$640 million, work started on the Homebush site in August 1996 and is expected to be com-

plete this month.

The capacity is 10,000 more than the stunning Bukit Jalil stadium which hosted the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur but would just over half fill soccer's Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

The cost of Australia's showpiece stadium is \$13 million less than it will cost to revamp the historic Wembley Stadium in England - originally built in 1923 for £750,000.

In the lead-up to the Olympics, organisers will put the new stadium to the test and are

anticipating three record breaking Australian crowds from three separate football codes.

Rugby league had the first crack at it with a double-header last Saturday when Manly played Newcastle and Parramatta took on St George-Illawarra.

The Socceroos will then test the capacity at the official opening when they play a FIFA World XI on June 12.

The Wallabies will aim to make it a hat-trick of big houses when they play the All Blacks on August 28.

But the Sydney venue will never take the crowd record from the MCG which packed in 130,000 in 1959 to see American evangelist Billy Graham.

The Melbourne ground also has the record for an AFL game with 121,696 footy fans at the Carlton-Collingwood or Wembley.

grand final in 1970.

Sydneyiders could argue that they are getting better value for their money at Homebush as Melbourne's 52,000 capacity Docklands' stadium will cost \$439 million and will be ready to host Olympic soccer games.

Sydney aims to outshine Atlanta -- which flopped in technology and transportation but had quality stadiums -- and will set up two massive video screens 30 per cent larger than the last games at each end of the ground.

If the action is boring there are 53 bars in the Sydney complex and bar staff can serve you 85,000 schooners an hour at an almost ice-cool 2-4 degrees.

That's something unlikely to be matched match by the Maracana or Wembley.

SOCCER: A LEGAL EAGLE'S PERSPECTIVE

Pele - What's a photo worth?

By Greg Keenan

(Solicitor, McCabes Lawyers, Sydney; Managing Director, Athlete Management International, Sydney)

IT SEEMS that lawyers will continue to be involved in soccer whether we like it or not.

At the moment, Pele - perhaps the greatest player of all time - likes lawyers being involved.

This is because, as reported by *Inside Soccer*, Pele has just been awarded damages of almost \$US300,000.

This was in a civil lawsuit against the Brazilian football federation and a publisher for the unauthorized use of photographs.

Apparently, the photographs in question appeared in a 1988 publication commissioned by the Brazilian football federation.

The publication had Pele on the cover as well as featuring him in another twenty photographs.

You might ask why all the fuss about a few photos?

For a court in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil to award Pele the equivalent of al-

most \$A500,000, gives some sort of indication that photos can be worth money.

In legal jargon, we are talking about "intellectual property".

There can be significant financial benefits arising out of, for example, photos of soccer stars.

An issue that arises is who is entitled to the financial benefits that might flow from such photos or "intellectual property".

The answer will usually be found in the terms and conditions of a player's contract with his Club.

While we are not talking about players of the same profile as Pele in the Ericsson Cup these players' interests are still very important.

This fact is recognised in the Ericsson Cup Collective Agreement, which is an agreement between Soccer Australia and the Australian Soccer Players' Association.

The agreement governs rights and obligations of players in the Ericsson Cup.

In the agreement, Soccer Australia acknowledges that a player has a legitimate and commercial interest in his name, image, reputation, photograph, etc.

The finding of the recent court case in Brazil involving Pele reflects this acknowledgment.

The agreement also allows for negotiation between Soccer Australia and the Association regarding the Association's share of income from, among other things, television rights which involves

The negotiated amounts are then applied to the benefit of the Association and its player members.

Soccer Australia isn't obliged under its agreement with the Association to make additional payments to individual players from television rights payments, merchandising, etc.

If an individual player wanted to seek additional payments from Soccer Australia for the use of his name, image, reputation, photo, etc. then that would have to be negotiated at the time of entering into his playing contract.

With the benefit of hindsight, Pele would have done it that way, no doubt with the help of a lawyer!



Rufus?

He has been retired for a little while now but he was in a couple of squads I was in.

What do you think about the Auckland Kings coming into the Australian NSL?

I think it is great for Auckland and I think they will have lots of support.

Their first year will be a little difficult for them but they will get better.

How much did you learn from New Zealand international star Wynton

Do you think South Mel-

bourne can do the double and win the Grand Final again and who would be your biggest threat leading up to the play-offs?

Yes.

I don't think there is any reason why we can't do it again although we have lost a few players from last year's team.

If we play to our full potential we could finish first or second.

Our biggest threats would be Perth Glory, Adelaide City and Sydney United.

This article is prepared exclusively for the general information of the readership of Inside Soccer.

While it directs attention to and comments on aspects of law, it is not intended to provide legal advice in the area.

Professional advice should be sought from your lawyer before acting on any of the information conveyed in this article.

Bugsy's View

with Marconi skipper Brad Maloney

IT HAS been a case of good news and not so good news at Marconi during the past week.

The good news has been the selection of Danny Invincible and Christian Care in the Young Socceroos squad, with the not so good news being that our twin stoppers, Mark Babic and Dominic Longo, will be out of action for a few more weeks yet.

We had hoped that Dominic at least would have been fit to travel to Adelaide last weekend for the game against Adelaide Sharks, but it turns out that it may not be until early April before we see him on the paddock again.

It is a similar story with Mark Babic, and although there are no predictions as to when he may be fit again to make an appearance, hopefully we will see him in a Marconi jersey before the end of the season.

It has been well documented how injuries have decimated us this season, but apart from Longo and

Babic we are all back on board, and ready to give the Top Six a real shake.

And our tilt at the Top Six starts again in earnest this coming Saturday at Marconi Stadium when

Breakers this season, and no doubt he will be doing his best to keep us scoreless when he turns out in front of his former home crowd.

Friendships will be



we take on Newcastle Breakers.

Newcastle are a better side than their league position indicates, and under former Marconi youth coach Lee Sterrey they have achieved some excellent results.

While they may not score a lot of goals, they certainly don't concede many either, and I've got no doubt that when they visit Marconi they will make it very difficult for us to break down their well marshalled defence.

Former Marconi goalkeeper, Bobby Catlin, has been outstanding for the

forgotten on the night however, as this is a game we simply must win if we are to make the Top Six.

Every home match for us is almost like a Grand Final, as we are aware that if we win our remaining five games at Bossley Park, we will make the play-offs.

No doubt the pressure on us will increase as the weeks pass by, but we are all confident that now we have put our horrendous run of injuries behind us, we will be there come play-off time.

The loss of Danny In-

vincible and Christian Care at such a critical time of the season won't help our cause, but everybody is delighted that they have been included in the Young Socceroos squad for the World Youth Championship in Nigeria.

They fly out on Wednesday for Holland where they will go into a training camp, and as I understand it play warm up games in Holland and Spain before jetting off to Nigeria.

The Young Socceroos have drawn Ireland, Saudi Arabia and Mexico in their group, and it is certainly not beyond them to make the knock out stages.

Most of the squad have Ericsson Cup experience and it will be interesting to see how they perform.

While some clubs may sorely miss the loss of their young stars for the rest of the competition rounds, there is no doubt that the youngsters will return better players as a result of their experience.

It is unfortunate that the tournament falls at such a critical time of the domestic season, but as any player will tell you, there is nothing like representing your country.

Troubled former Ranger arrives to sample life in the Valley

GIPPSLAND Falcons have recruited troubled former Glasgow Rangers star Sandy Robertson as part of a plan to re-build the side around two or three experienced players.

"Our plan is to have a nucleus of very experienced players and then blood a lot of youngsters," *Inside Soccer* was told.

"We know that we can't compete with the big city clubs in terms of wages for players so we have to be a bit smarter."

"I am also good for the kids because they know that they will get a chance with us."

The move to sign Robertson has been on the cards for two months now although it looked likely at one stage that Sydney Olympic would pull the rug from under the club.

However, it is believed that Olympic were scared away by the reputation that Robertson has built up off the park.

That hasn't scared off Gippsland boss Stuart Munro (pictured) who has proven a success with the limited resources available to him at the Latrobe Valley club.

"I knew Sandy from my time at Rangers," said Munro.

"He has agreed to come and play out the season with us before making a decision on his future."

The 27-year-old joined the club mid last week and Munro is clearly hoping that Robertson will find a future away

from the bright lights of Glasgow.

The Scottish midfielder also spent some time at Coventry City before playing in the lower Scottish divisions.



Two seasons ago Robertson's then agent made a bid through to land him in Australia but it seems that the Rangers connection has finally pulled through for the undoubted talent.

At one stage Munro was contemplating pulling the boots back on himself, particularly when his side was trashed by Wollongong.

The addition of Robertson might be the jig-saw piece that he needs to put some aggression into a team which buckles far too often.

"They're neither world-beaters nor are they the best in Australia, and that is why they are at Gippsland Falcons," Munro has said openly of his players.

"They have to come to terms with that."

"It's only if we play as a team that we can get them to play to a higher standard."

"They can't win it on their own."

Soccer in the Land of the Home Run

JAPAN plans to extend \$200 million in loans to help South Korea, hit hard by a financial crisis, build a stadium for the 2002 World Cup finals, the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper reported on Saturday.

Quoting unnamed Japanese government sources, Yomiuri said Japan worked out the loans scheme after it received a request from South Korea for assistance late last year.

South Korea and Japan are co-hosting the 2002 World Cup, the first time such an arrangement has been tried.

Relations between the two countries have been strained since the Japanese occupation of Korea from 1911 to 1945.

Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi was expected to announce the plan when he visits South Korea later this month, the sources were quoted as saying.

The loans would be extended through the Export-Import Bank

of Japan, Yomiuri said.

South Korea would use the loans to build a stadium in the suburbs of Seoul, it said.

Government officials were not immediately available to comment on the report.

South Korea had said it would build 10 new stadiums for the World Cup.

But South Korea has slashed spending after an economic crisis forced the government to accept a \$58.35 billion rescue package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in December 1997.

And Japan's professional soccer league, which kicked off its new season last Saturday, may be lacking the big-name superstars of yesteryear but officials are quietly confident the worst is over regarding an alarming slump in attendances and income.

When the J League began in 1993, boasting World Cup heroes such as Zico, Gary Lineker and Pierre Littbarski, soccer suddenly became

all the rage in the Land of the Home Run.

The players were worshipped like pop stars and became overnight sensations, some of them overnight millionaires, while the stadiums were packed with shrieking schoolgirls.

In the first year alone, fans bought over 3.6 billion yen (\$A46.85 million) worth of merchandise.

In 1994, the average attendance for league games was 19,598, and the following year the aggregate number of fans topped six million for the first time.

Then the football bubble burst, the schoolgirls stayed at home to feed their tamagotchi virtual pets and the corporate cash started running out as the economy slumped into recession.

The average league gate in 1997 was down to 10,131, and total sales of J League goods was just 473 million yen.

Companies began to cut their losses and this

led to the demise last season of the Yokohama Flugels, who had won the Asian Super Cup in 1995 with Brazilian World Cup midfielders Zinho and Cesar Sampaio on their team.

Last season, on the back of World Cup fever following Japan's qualification for France, the average attendance rose from the 1997 low to 11,982, suggesting the market had finally bottomed out.

"If you sit down and think calmly, we now have a normal situation," says Takehiko Sano, of the J League's planning department.

"Two years ago, people started shouting that the J League was in crisis. We have had our troubles and still do, but the popularity among teens and men in their 20s and 30s is still strong. If the young generation lose interest, that is a really a crisis."

Sano said the revenue from merchandise and attendances were closely linked.

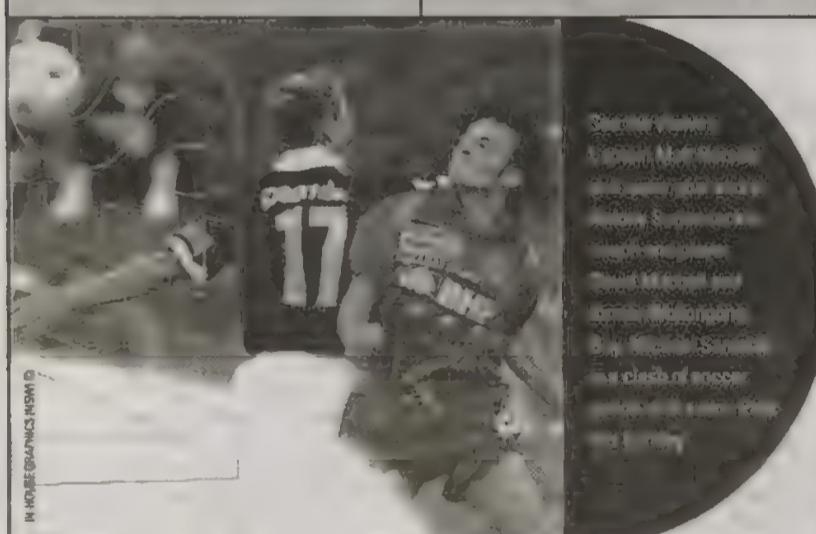
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IN-HOUSE GRAPHICS NSW

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Australian Soccer's HALL OF FAME

by Stuart Jones

ON Sunday 28th February 1999 the first inductees of the Australian Soccer Hall of Fame were presented.

It was a historic day as Australia became one of the first leading football nations to have such a hall of fame.

It brought together the greats of Australian Soccer and their families.

Those who think it is a waste of money should perhaps realise just how much this award meant to the players.

The function started with the 1974 Socceroos being honoured, although they were not inducted on masse into the hall of fame.

Rale Rasic spoke on behalf of the team and called up Ray Baartz who had been injured just prior to the Cup and did not go.

Rasic then named Baartz as the best player he had seen and said if he had gone with the side then they surely would have won at least one game.

He also mentioned the late Jimmy Mackay, the first of many well deserved reflections upon him through the night.

Rasic pointed out the importance the Australian shirt had meant to all his side.

Then awarded an Australian shirt was a man who played for Australia in 1936.

Back then shirts were not kept by the players and James Osborne, the

oldest surviving Socceroo, was finally a recipient of his own Australian jersey.

Then mentioned were those listed in the award of distinction and roll of honour from all states around Australia.

The next to be awarded were the players gaining the medal of excellence.

Highlights of those speeches were Harry Williams, Australia's first aboriginal Socceroo, who pointed to the closeness of all the boys who he played with, even today.

Manfred Schaefer pointed to the loss of Jimmy Mackay and how much it was a setback to his life (and not getting the sack from the Sharks!), and also pointed out the reason he looked so short these days was the amount of games he had had to play.

His most poignant comment was that about different nationalities.

He stated that whilst Perth and Northern Spirit were great as we step into the future we must never forget the other nationalities that have put so much into football.

The next person awarded was Jim

Mackay and after a standing ovation, Mackay's son got up to collect the honour on behalf of his family.

His son thanked the soccer community for their support of Jim's family since his passing.

Ray Baartz was then inducted and his very emotional speech was the best all night.

"I am absolutely honoured to receive this award today," he said.

"To the young players today that are making their careers don't bow to the pressure, there is nothing like playing for your country."

And Baartz was an apprentice at Manchester United for two and a half so he knows.

Frank Loughran simply said that as an Irishman he is proud to be Australian and then emotion cut his speech short.

Jimmy McNab's award was collected by a member of his family.

The next section was the Roll of honour distinguished contribution.

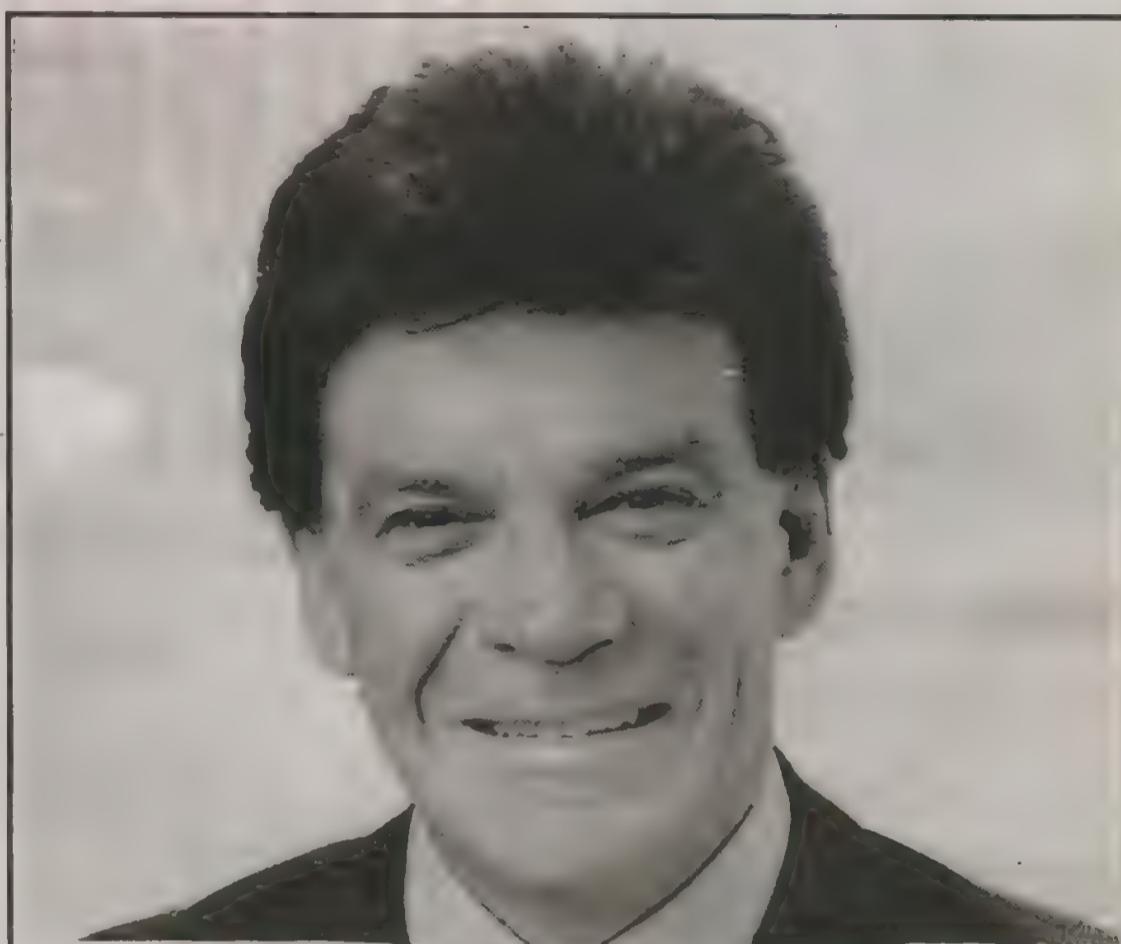
Journalist Laurie Schwabb's wife talked of how she shared his passion of soccer for 16 years and how much he loved football.

He is another still greatly missed.

Connie Selby simply stated how honoured she was to have her performances recognised this way.

Ian Brusasco said his efforts in soccer were not bad considering he had played Rugby for Queensland.

Frank Arok mentioned the passion and love that soccer had given him, both at St George and coaching Aus-



Johnny Warren: one of the greatest Australian born players of all time

his challenges in charge of coaching. He also promised that anyone who

Julius Re spoke of how in 1961 he

helped form Soccer Australia and it drove him to drink alcohol for the first time.

Dr Brian Corrigan was very emotional throughout his speech, speaking of the many friends he has from soccer in Australia.

Jim Bayutti's son told how his dad seen the make up of Australia and had known football would reflect this.

As an example he mentioned how when the 1981 World Youth Cup Peter Raskopolous played for Australia, no-one could pronounce his name yet he was as true blue as Paul Hogan.

The main categories were the players Hall of Champions and the first mentioned was John Kosmina.

Kosmina said that this ceremony meant that finally tradition was starting to be created in Australia, for the players especially.

Jim Rooney thanked Rale Rasic for a lot of the success he had in his playing career.

Attila Abonyi's award was re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

INDUCTEES INTO AUSTRALIAN SOCCER HALL OF FAME

GROUP ONE - HALL OF CHAMPIONS/ HALL OF HONOUR.

These awards go to outstanding contributors, either on or off the field in any area of Soccer Football activity, whether at State or Territory level, nationally or internationally. The award is the highest recognition given for a contribution to the growth and development of Soccer Football in Australia.

It recognises inspiration to the sport of Soccer which has demonstrated outstanding leadership and a personal commitment to the highest levels of achievement, far above and beyond what would normally be expected.

Outstanding performance on the PLAYING FIELD in an Australian representative capacity is recognised in the HALL OF CHAMPIONS, while outstanding performance as an ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICIAL or another in a NON-PLAYING CAPACITY, will be recognised in the HALL OF HONOUR.

The following players have been recognized into the HALL OF CHAMPIONS:

John Kosmina
Bob Bignell
Joe Marston
Attila Abonyi
Peter Wilson
Alfred Quill
James (Judy) Masters
Ron Lord

Jim Rooney
Reg Date
John Warren

The following people have been inducted into THE HALL OF HONOUR:

Elaine Watson, OAM
Robert Telfer
Sir Arthur George, OA
John Walter Fletcher

Vic Tuting, MBE
Rale Rasic
Arthur Gibbs
Theo Marnaris, MBE

Tony Boskovic
Harry Dockerty
Michael Weinstein, AM

Australia; "It was the most incredible part of my life.

"Thank you for recognising that we all did something for soccer."

Eric Worthington spoke in depth of

Les Scheinflug mentioned how much the green and gold meant to him and how he had ridden his bicycle to his first game for Australia against Hearts in Adelaide.

played for Australia wanted to, also agreeing with Ray Baartz.



Adrian Alston



Peter Wilson



Ottie Abonyi



John Kosmina



Manfred Schaefer



In action against the Socceroos

World record holder retires

GOALKEEPER Thomas Ravelli, who earned a world record 143 caps for Sweden, has said he has decided to retire after 22 years in professional soccer.

Ravelli, 39, has been considering his future since he

left U.S. Major League Soccer club Tampa Bay Mutiny last November after a year with the club.

Ravelli's goalkeeping heroics helped Sweden reach the semifinals of the 1994 World Cup in the United States and earned the player a place on the short list for FIFA's All Stars selection from the tournament.

He made his senior international debut in 1981 and played his last match for Sweden in a 1-0 win over Estonia in October 1997.

"I've decided that I no longer have the inner motivation to continue," Ravelli told Swedish SVT television.

"Since I came home from the U.S. three months ago I've been thinking about what to do with my future."

He was first signed up by Osters IF when he was only 10 years old and developed through their schoolboy and youth ranks before making his senior debut at 17.

He stayed with Osters for 19 years, winning Swedish championship medals in 1980 and 1981, and moved to IFK Gothenburg in 1989, winning further championship titles in 1990 and 1991.

Germany offers 'incentive' to quit

GERMAN Interior Ministry Otto Schily has proposed a deal with South Africa to boost Germany's chances of staging the World Cup soccer finals in 2006.

In an interview with the Sunday newspaper Welt am Sonntag, Schily said Germany would provide assistance to South Africa if they pulled out of the race and decided to bid for 2010.

"South Africa would perhaps be well advised to look further ahead in order to meet the requirements," he said. "Germany could help them do that."

German Soccer Federation (DFB) vice-president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder last January suggested a deal with African nations which would involve Germany supporting African efforts for the 2010 finals if Africa backed Germany's bid for 2006.

Franz Beckenbauer, who heads the German bid, said last month that South Africa was leading the race.

England, Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco and Nigeria are also bidding.

FIFA's executive committee will decide in March 2000 which country will stage the event.

ILLAWARRA LIONS

A profile of an Australian Soccer Club

Pancev to open new stadium

THIRTY eight football clubs have trod the national soccer league path – and few of them live in the top flight to tell the tale.

Only a handful of clubs have survived since inception back in '77 and along the way there have been a lot casualties.

One of those clubs was Wollongong Macedonia, taken in in 1988 and then tossed out almost as soon at the end of that single season.

However, their NSL

record wasn't that bad and one could be forgiven for thinking that there was the usual amount of football politicking going on at the time.

"We lost out by just one vote," a club supporter says.

"We never found out who voted or why but we lost and by one vote and were relegated."

Back in NSW State League (later re-formed as Super League) the club changed its name to Illawarra Lions to reflect a

different attitude but found itself down the rung again, this time losing Super League status and being 'consigned' to the depths of Division 1.

And last season was not exactly the kind that will make its mark in the history pages either.

But that doesn't mean that the club which sits on the outskirts of southern Sydney considers itself anything other than NSL material, far from it.

"We have ambitions," we were told, "but they

are realistic ambitions.

"This club is well situated to take advantage of an expanding population but first we have to get our house in order."

"One of the things we have to do is to finish off our home ground."

And already that new ground is starting to take shape.

The turf has been laid and rolled flat while the hill placements will house future terracing.

At the western end of the ground a pitch-length grandstand is also starting to look the part.

The footings are in and the brick wall is creeping higher every day.

Club officials, however, are circumspect about the opening.

"It would have been nice to kick off this season at our new ground, but that won't happen."

"Maybe it will be ready to play on by April but we'll just wait and see – there is a lot of work to be done."

But part of that work has been to send out an invitation to Macedonian superstar Darko Pancev to open the new stadium.

That would be a nice touch and even if it doesn't happen in April it will.

This time ambition is matched by pragmatism and the Lions know there is only one road forward – right to the top.

Dual registration no go creates problem for young Lions

ILLAWARRA Lions have gained a big reputation over the years as producers of exciting new talent but the club fears that the current dispute between the NSWSF and the NSWASF will jeopardise their position.

This season their junior players will not be able to dual-register as was common practice in the past.

Players signing up for the Super Youth League squads, controlled by the NSWSF, will not be able

to play in the local district competition also, which is affiliated to the NSWASF through the ISA.

"It is all very confusing if you are a kid," a club official said.

"They don't understand the politics of it all but they will suffer."

"In the past they could play both grades of football but unless the two senior federations come together then that will all stop."

"Last season all games were under Soccer NSW

which was an umbrella for both the Federation and the Amateurs.

"But now that Soccer NSW no longer operates the kids have a problem."

Exciting young Sydney United Mile Sterjovski has played for the club in the past, breaking into the club's first grade side at just sixteen.

"I remember his debut, Mile was outstanding."

"He was just a kid at the time but he could go past anybody."

"Glenn Fontanna was our coach then and he had a lot of faith in young talent and that has been something which has always been the case at this club."

Although the nucleus of a first grade side has been formed the Lions are still recruiting with kick off in the NSW First Division still weeks away.

One talented player that they hope to lure to the coast is former Sydney United player Ante Zizic.

And the United connection will be strengthened again when, as is expected, Velemir Kupresak, makes his yearly pilgrimage to play his winter soccer on the coast.

Kupresak, the evergreen United stopper, has played with the Lions for the best part of a decade since his move north from Victorian club St Albans.

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Soper for pivot role

BIG things are expected from Socceroo icon Marshall Soper at Illawarra Lions this season.

The club has invested heavily in bringing the former *enfant terrible* of Aussie soccer to Wollongong.

"Marshall is a key factor in our side," says assistant secretary Krum Spirovski.

"He is a great player

and we are all hoping that his experience can rub off on some of our younger players.

"When he was at his peak there was no better player in Australia, everyone knows that.

"Everybody at the club is excited because he has so much potential.

"If we can unlock just a part of it then he will play a huge role in this club."

ILLAWARRA LIONS 1999 FIRST TEAM SQUAD

Rober Raguz

John Tretselas

Damien Counter

Alex Krstevski

Marshall Soper

Tony Trpcevski

Sandro Borsato

Desi Tosevski

Jim Melissourgos

Valentine Tasevski

Oliver Vrtkovski

Robert Mihailov

Vasco Sobelevski

Reserve Keeper: Jarrod Bone

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EITEL'S Old Club Goes Bust

ENGLISH first division soccer club Crystal Palace has put itself into the hands of administrators in an attempt to secure the club's financial future.

The board of directors said in a statement "that having regard to the present financial position of the company, the board are seeking to reorganise its finances and, to that end, will instruct professional advisers with a view to entering into a deed of administration so as to secure the long-term future of the club."



Jancev marks important signing at Illawarra

MAYBE the biggest signing at Illawarra Lions for this season hasn't even been on the field.

While Illawarra are preparing a side that they hope will take them back into the Super League the man that they have landed to lead that direction is something of a legend in himself.

Lube Jancev created soccer history in New South Wales when his Bankstown Lions side knocked over the big

guns of Ericsson Cup club Sydney Olympic in the final of the Waratah Cup.

He also led Bankstown to three titles before heading to Europe to continue his coaching career. But the ambitious Illawarra side were determined to get a first class coach and brought Jancev back to Australia after two years in Macedonia.

Jancev has been appointed Director of Coaching and has under

his care all of the club's sides.

"He will be grooming players and coaches for the future," *Inside Soccer* was told. "Jancev is a brilliant coach and we know that he will bring the very best out of our players - at all levels.

"When we were demoted from the National Soccer League it set this club back ten years, everyone is aware of that.

"But we have a business plan now that will

see us back in lights. Jancev is the man around whom we can base our plans on the field while the committee gets going on

doing what is necessary off the park. I think exciting times are ahead and we have the potential at Illawarra Lions to outwit even Wollongong Wolves.

"When this club is playing well our support base is enormous so it is important that we play at as high a level as possible.

"Everyone likes to cheer

a winning team and that is what we are aiming for."

Jancev transformed Bankstown into NSW's most adventurous team, setting a playing style on the park which entertained as well as garnered success.

In doing that he broke the stranglehold enjoyed by the wealthy Blacktown City - and Illawarra Lions are looking for a repeat dose of the same medicine.

Chairman Mark Goldberg, who bought the club for \$A80 million in February 1998, said: "The present position is one common to a number of other clubs that have gone into administration.

"To date all those clubs have come through fitter and healthier and more efficient to secure their future in the Football League."

Goldberg is the major stakeholder in Ericsson Cup club Northern Spirit and the Palace Aussie connection also included former Socceroo boss Terry Venables.

El Tel parted company with Palace some weeks ago after the London side admitted that they could not pay his huge wage bill.

Under Venables the Socceroos endured the biggest flop in their history - missing out on World Cup qualification in agonising fashion against Iran at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Many in the Australian media have blamed Venables' extravagance and lack of fine planning for the Socceroos failure.

Carlton honour Foundation membership

CARLTON'S new owners, Network Sports Limited have announced that Foundation Life Membership benefits would be honoured in full.

"Peter Jess, head of Network Sports Limited was extremely excited by meeting many of the club's members at a recent game," said a Carlton official.

"Comments made by the Foundation Life Members were extremely encouraging and the club looks forward to continuing an exciting future together.

"We want to reward their valuable support."

Carlton will also hold the original Foundation Membership Price at \$1,000 until 31 March 1999.

Carlton have also advised that the offer will not be extended and that from July 1, 1999, the new price for Foundation Life Membership will be \$2,500.

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ceived by Rale Rasic, and Rasic called him a great ambassador of football.

Peter Wilson's award was accepted by Adrian Alston who told this story of Wilson; "We were in West Germany and Franz Beckenbauer got up and spoke for half an hour in English and German.

"Peter Wilson got up and said I'd like to thank the inventor of Venetian blinds because without them it's curtains for us all."

Johnny Warren spoke of how he had been an Australian by accident but had always been around people who chose to be Australian.

He also mentioned the players prior to 1974.

He thanked the media, and the ethnic media, for all their help in supporting the game.

Above all he thanked his parents for the love and time and opportunities he was given.

Ron Lord was full of emotion when he accepted his award.

"I never realised that when I was playing football 40 years ago that one day I would be standing up here as a recipient of such an award," the former international goalie said.

Bob Bignell was magnificent as he cut short his speech as he broke down thanking everyone, he joked he was always laughing on the soccer field, but as he received that award you realised just how much it meant and what a magnificent gesture this was to the players from Soccer Australia.

The great Joe Marston was then inducted and he said that he had now lived long enough to see Australian Soccer grow from its infancy and now it was 21+.

He also noted the expert coaches in Australia and how everything was in good hands.

James (Judy) Masters' award was collected by his daughter who said that once he met a chap and Masters said "I know your face, I forgot your

GROUP TWO - MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE AND ROLL OF HONOUR

This award is for distinguished service or contribution, either on or off-the-field, in any area of Soccer Football activity, whether at State or Territory level, nationally or internationally.

The award recognises a performance, which is far above and beyond what would normally be expected of players and non-players.

This award recognises a PLAYER who has represented Australia at INTERNATIONAL LEVEL on a significant number of occasions, or a NON-PLAYER whose contribution has achieved national recognition and/or has been involved at a level of commitment and dedication seldom seen.

The following players are awarded MEDALS OF EXCELLENCE:

Charlie Yankos	Ray Baartz	John Nyskohus
Frank Loughran	Julie Dolan	Bob Lawrie
Harry Williams	James McNabb	Manfred Schaefer
William Mauder	Jim Mackay	

The following people are recipients of ROLL OF HONOUR AWARDS:

Laurie Schwab	Les Scheinflug	Connie Selby
Julius Re	Ian Brusasco, AM	Dr Brian Corrigan
Frank Arok	Dieter Klose	Sam Papasavas, OAM
Giacomo (Jim) Bayutti, OA	Eric Worthington	

GROUP THREE (THIRD TIER) - AWARD OF DISTINCTION & ROLL OF HONOUR

The SOCCER AUSTRALIA HONOURS COMMITTEE, in its efforts to acknowledge these people, has instituted an AWARD OF DISTINCTION FOR PLAYERS, and admission to the ROLL OF HONOUR for non-players.

To give more recognition to the nominees, it has been decided to request each STATE FEDERATION to make these presentations at their own functions, so that the nominees can be honoured in their home State.

The PLAYERS receiving AWARDS of DISTINCTION are as follows:

(New South Wales): William Coolahan, Col Curran, Jack 'Digger' Evans, Billy Henderson, Graham Jennings, Alan Johns, Frank Parsons, Ray Richards, George Smith and John Watkiss.

(Queensland): Gordon Nunn, Col Sanders

(Victoria): Jim Armstrong, Michael de Bruyckere, Tommy Jack and Jeff Olver.

(South Australia): Sergio Melta, John Perin.

(Western Australia): Ron Adair and Gary Marocchi

The CONTRIBUTORS, for admission to the ROLL OF HONOUR are as follows:

(NSW): Fred Barlow, Brian Le Fevre, Keith Gilmour, Tom Crimson, Jack Logan, Martin Royal, Ron Smith, Joe Vlasits, Sir William Walkley and Ron Wright

(Victoria): Tony Kovac, Frank McIver, William Thomas

(South Australia): Donald Campbell, Zoran Matic, Peter Nikolich

(Western Australia): Harry Croft

And, honoured on the day and awarded special presentations, but NOT inducted into the Hall Of Fame en masse were the following people:

1974 SOCCEROOS & COACHING & ADMIN STAFF

Players: Jack Reilly, Allan Maher, Jim Milisavlejevic, Col Curran, Ivo Rudic, Manfred Schaefer, Doug Utjesenovic, John Watkiss, Peter Wilson, Harry Williams, Dave Harding, Jim Mackay, Ray Richards, Jim Rooney, John Warren, Adrian Alston, Attila Abonyi, Branko Buljevic, Ernie Campbell, Garry Manuel, Peter Ollerton, Max Tolson. Team Officials: Rale Rasic, Les Scheinflug, Sir Arthur George, John Barclay, Eric Worthington, Brian Le Fevre, Brian Corrigan and Peter Van Ryn.

name, but you played inside left for South Coast United" and how much he would have loved the day.

She finished with one note about how the Aussie women were in the top eight in the world and it was about time the men caught up!

Administrators and coaches were mentioned in the hall of honour for outstanding contributions.

The best speech of that lot came from Rale Rasic who stated how everyone present was his family and Australia is the greatest sporting nation on earth.

He mentioned love passion and respect for the country, and with these three we can look forward to the future, to 2000 and 2002.

He also said how nice this would have been had it come around 25 years ago.

Overall it was a magnificent day laced with emotion.

It was great to see the present day clubs represented at the function.

The greats were all there and as I did not see many of them play it was great to hear their stories, the likes of James Osborne's greatest regret of not joining Newcastle United in the 1930s in the UK, or of John Kosmina's similar regret re Arsenal in the early 1970s.

Or Joe Marston's explanation of just what went on the day Derek Dooley broke his leg for Sheffield Wednesday against his Preston side.

Or Harry William's stories from his Socceroo days.

They are all legends and we should honour them.

We often criticise Soccer Australia but they deserve praise for this.

It was no waste of money as John Kosmina said it started a players tradition.

The good news kept coming though as Basil Scarsella said the next thing being investigated was a museum of football in Australia.

Congratulations to all the inductees from all at Inside Soccer.



The 1974 Socceroos - World Cup finalists

Mitre



Soccer 1998



Electronic game by Super Nintendo Entertainment System. © 1997 Nintendo of America, Inc. All rights reserved.

Charlie throws in his royal weight

PRINCE Charles is to back England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup by holding a reception for leading soccer figures at his country home of Highgrove.

The dinner, to which many of the key decision-makers have been invited, will take place on FA Cup Final weekend.

Those invited will also be given tickets to the Wembley final on May 21 and invited to

Downing Street to meet British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Sports Minister Tony Banks today confirmed the visit would take place as part of the effort to convince world soccer's ruling body FIFA to let England host the World Cup.

"This is a national effort," Banks said.

"It is supported by all parties in Parliament.

"It is something the

Busby babe passes in Florida

DENNIS Violette, a member of the Manchester United Busby Babes and a survivor of the Munich air disaster in 1958, has died at his home in the United States.

He was 65.

The club confirmed that Violette, who lived in Jacksonville, Florida, died on Saturday from a brain tumour after a long illness.

Violette's 32 league goals in the 1959-60 season still stand as a club record and in all, he scored 178 goals in 291 first team appearances for United between 1952 and 1962.

He joined in 1950 and graduated from the nursery system installed by manager Matt Busby and which produced such players as Duncan Edwards and Bobby Charlton.

Violette was a member of the 1956-57 championship winning team and was United's skipper in the 1959-60 season.

He escaped death in the



The Busby Babes

Munich air disaster which claimed the lives of 23 players, officials and crew.

Violette's injuries from the crash were thought to

be so bad he would never play again, but he recovered to take his place in the FA Cup Final team against Bolton Wanderers three months later.

Plan to tax Socceroos

A SECRET plan to tax Australian and other foreign players in the Premier League when they answer the call to play for their countries is reportedly being considered by English soccer chiefs.

The plan would see appearance money, bonuses and commercial spin-offs Premier League players like Socceroos Harry Kewell and Mark Bosnich received while playing for Australia deducted from their English club salaries, the Sunday Telegraph reported

today.

The scheme is being considered as part of a new standard contract for players being drawn up by the Premier League.

Currently, international fees are paid by national associations directly to the English clubs as supplements to the players' wages.

But the new proposals would see the English clubs able to deduct payments and apply such a rule to every player, no matter what their nationality.

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Sharks sink teeth into lead

VPL BIG MATCH REPORT with Bert van Bedaf

PORT Melbourne remained the undefeated VPL leader after six rounds, beating the Melbourne Raiders 2-0 at their new Epping Stadium on Sunday.

Both teams had a player sent off.

But the departure of George Slifkas for a late tackle on John Pappas after 30 minutes affected the Raiders more long term than any brief discomfort the sending-off of John Paul Knezevic in the 82nd minute may have caused the Sharks.

the league, while the Raiders are in sixth place.

Port coach Peter Tsolakis said: "I'm pretty happy with the win."

"We dropped two points last week (1-1 with St Albans) and we had to get three points this week to keep the boys on their toes."

"Four of our six games have been against teams going down to ten men, which has made it hard because they usually close things down and we can't get through."

"But we had the one-

easier it'll get later on."

There are four teams relegated this year, so bottom teams will be going gung-ho to pick up points against the top teams to survive, Tsolakis said.

Raiders coach Dusan Kalezic believed the sending off of Slifkas by referee Robert Caminiti was too harsh.

"I don't think it was a red card, maybe yellow, and keeping it eleven against eleven would have been better for everybody who was here on

running out easy winners last Sunday."

It was the replay between last season's Grand Finalists, which the Kings won 3-2 and just as entertaining.

Sunday's win put the Kings in third spot behind Green Gully and leader Port Melbourne.

St Albans is in seventh place.

The Saints produced their opening goal in the eleventh minute with clever passing from possession play.

Ilija Dragicevic pro-

Left unmarked squarely in front of goal, "Plugger" as he is known — after Tony "Plugger" Lockett, the Sydney's Swans and AFL's top goalgetter — Gnjidic fired a left-foot shot past Saints reserve keeper Steve Pavlovic.

St Albans regular keeper Marjan Vunder was suspended, having been sent off last week for swearing at a linesman, and his normal vocal directions from the last line were missed.

Karl appeared to be held by the Bulleen defence in the 39th minute when failing to connect on the turn and Saints fans loudly demanded a penalty.

But referee Rick Arturi waved play on, denying the Saints a likely opportunity.

The tables were turned three minutes into the second half when Gnjidic was held by Saints stopper Mick Culina with a shirt pull.

But this time the referee pointed to the spot and Gnjidic slotted home his and Bulleen's second goal with a low spot kick in the left corner.

Paul Della Rocca towered over the Saints defence for Bulleen's third goal in the 59th minute, heading home from a pinpoint free kick by sweeper John Waddell.

Gnjidic just missed out

on his second hat-trick of the season when his chip over Pavlovic in the 62nd minute hit the crossbar.

The striker's haul for the match put him on six goals for the season.

Last season he topscored with 23 goals.

"I always aim for 15 goals in a season. Anything more than that is a bonus," Gnjidic said.

There were no bonus points for St Albans coach Steve Rastocic.

"We had this game pencilled in to win, but you can't say Bulleen didn't deserve the three points."

"Our players just have to realise that nothing comes to us without hard work."

"We are no superstars."

"We have three regular players who are doing the hard work."

"The others toss a coin how they're going to play."

"We're right physically, but if we're not right mentally we're going to struggle," Rastocic said.

IN OTHER results, South Dandenong drew 1-1 with Bentleigh Greens with goals from Carlo Villani for South and David Grela.

Vinnie de la Plaza scored for Sunshine and Zlatko Mihajlovic for Springvale in another 1-1 draw.

Fawkner and Altona East played out a 0-0 draw, while Altona

Magic scored their first win of the season, beating Westvale 3-2.

John Sapazovski scored twice and Zoran Trajevski once for the Magic.

Player coach Phil Stubbs and striker Gerry McAleer accounted for West's goals.

The loss has sunk Westvale to bottom place.

Above them are Altona, Sunshine and Springvale to make up the relegation four.

Fawkner is only ahead on goal difference.

At the top, pace setters Port Melbourne, Green Gully, Bulleen and Bentleigh Greens are followed by Preston, Melbourne, St Albans, Altona East and South Dandenong.

IN round seven on Saturday's match of the week, top team Port Melbourne hosts rival Green Gully.

On Sunday, Altona East faces Bentleigh Greens at home, Preston welcomes Fawkner, Springvale plays Altona Magic and Sunshine is at home to South Dandenong.

On Monday night, there's the big clash between Italian-backed rivals Bulleen and Melbourne Raiders, while Westvale is at Green Gully against St Albans.

WANTED ACE REPORTERS

Would you like to join *Inside Soccer's* team of writers?

With the non-NSL season now upon us we have a need to expand our team to cover State Leagues, Juniors, Women's and Indoor Soccer.

In particular, *Inside Soccer* is looking for contributors based in Adelaide, Canberra, Wollongong and Perth. This could be your step into the world of soccer journalism. Don't worry about lack of experience; you supply the enthusiasm and passion and we will do the rest.

Inquiries to Bruce Campbell

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Melbourne Raiders former Olyroo George Slifkas: sent packing

Knezevic's red card came after a heavy clash with Raider's John Gasparini, who was stretched off and taken to hospital with concussion.

The Sharks had already taken the lead in the 34th minute through Evis Heath, who drove the ball home from 25 metres.

Peter Kakos scored five minutes into injury time, when the game was effectively already up for the tired Raiders.

Following their win, the Sharks remain top of

goal advantage and I don't think they (Raiders) threatened at all.

"We're just happy to get away with the three points.

"This season is decided by the team that finishes first after the rounds and we must pick up as many points as we can.

"It's going to be a race of a few teams, apart from us, there's Green Gully, Bulleen and Preston.

"And the more points we can pick up now, the

the night.

"It changed the game.

"We tried to do something about it after the break, but we stopped in the second half, because we had to play with ten men on such a big ground and you just can't do that," Kalezic said.

DEFENDING champions Bulleen Inter Kings came from a goal down to beat St Albans 3-1 in what promised to be a tough encounter but finished in a canter, with the Kings

vided the vital cross from the right.

Ivan Razov planted it into the box.

Harry Karl claimed the ball on the turn and laid it off for Razov who struck it low with his right foot for a classy team goal.

But after that promising effort the Saints faded and the Kings took over.

Prolific striker Danny Gnjidic equalised from a corner in the 27th minute.

Port to defend Bampton Cup

ILLAWARRA Soccer Association's Bert Bampton Cup and Youth Cup have been running side by side since 1973.

This year a total of \$8,100 in prize money is to be played for in the two tournaments, added incentive for the winners.

Last year Port Kembla took out the Bampton Cup in a nail-biter at Primbee while Bulli's impressive youth grade side took out the ISA Youth Cup.

This season 58 teams have entered the two competitions which are held on a knockout basis during the ISA season with the first round scheduled for 27 March.

The senior cup is named after the long-serving former player and administrator who started his association with soccer in the region in the 1920s.

In 1933 Bert Bampton, who had played with Metters in the NSWSA

competition, became secretary of Balgownie and then in 1943 he became treasurer of the then Illawarra District Soccer Association, only retiring from active involvement a few years ago.

In that time the name of Bert Bampton has become almost synonymous with soccer in the Illawarra and last year he was on hand to present the trophy to Port Kembla's winning captain, Giacomo Morlano.



Bulli winning the Illawarra Youth Cup last season

Fernhill to focus on youth

FERNHILL is one of a select group of Illawarra Soccer Clubs which have been ever-present members of the Premier League since its inception in 1977.

Their home ground is Towradgi Park - just

hundreds of metres from one of Wollongong's fabulous beaches.

Stepping up into the first team coaching breach this season is former reserve boss Dave Davenny.

This season Davenny

intends to focus on youth at the Wollongong northern suburb club.

Former leading goal-keeper Craig 'Spider' Armour is president of the club this season with Lorraine Tulcu coming in as secretary.

Fernhill are planning a major fund-raising event at Corrimbal Leagues Club, their major sponsor. The function will take the form of an Inter Dominion Calcutta and is certain to be well patronised by club supporters.

ROUND 1 - Bert Bampton Knockout Cup
Shellharbour City v Highlands United
Shoalhaven City v Wollongong Olympic
University v Balgownie Rangers
Cringila Lions v Dapto
Bulli v Coniston Lions
Port Kembla v Fernhill
Kiama v Warilla Wanderers
Wollongong White Eagles v Bellambi
Helensburgh Thistle v Shellharbour United
Illawarra United v Picton Rangers
Tarrawanna v Oaks Flat Amateurs
Western Suburbs v Kemblawarra
Albion Park v South Coast United
Corrimbal Leagues Club v St Elias Cedars
Lysaghts v Northern United

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After being so quiet, Mark's phone now doesn't stop ringing

By Bryan Cokely

FOR THREE years Mark Byrnes has lived in hope on the opinion of seasoned NSW soccer observer John Curran.

Curran has had 25 years of experience of coaching and scouting all age groups in Sydney.

Having coached Kingsford and Granville Chile in the State Leagues, Sydney Olympic Colts and more recently, Gladesville Hornsby in the Super Youth league, his opinion is well regarded at junior levels.

Three years ago he saw a rawboned Byrnes in defence and boldly stated and continued to state despite much ridicule that Byrnes was "as good as Craig Moore was at 14".

To his critics' delight this statement was looking shaky but last Monday all this changed when out of the blue Mark Byrnes became at 17 years and 2 weeks old,

the youngest player ever to be selected for the young Socceroos.

Ironically, Byrnes has replaced previous youngest player, Socceroo Craig Moore.

Byrnes' career started to move on when Curran and former St George Socceroo John Davies selected him for the Sydney Olympic Colts.

At just 15 Byrnes lacked speed and strength but with two good feet and a steady nerve he quickly adapted to the demands of National Youth League.

His play was characterised by bagfuls of courage and discipline.

He also possessed that inestimable invaluable quality; teachability.

"Byrnes is a great listener", Davies said.

During his time with the Colts he learned how to play Zonal defence without the comfort of a sweeper.

Tactically his game improved to the delight

of his team mates and coaches.

But the lack of facilities at Olympic was a key factor in leaving for the NSW ITC where the lure of a Joey's spot was enough to make his mind up.

"I was told my chances of getting in the Joey's could improve if I was at the ITC," Byrnes said.

Davies and Curran tried desperately to convince Olympic General Manager Frank Martin to invest some money in Byrnes but Olympic were not interested.

Similarly other NSL clubs have overlooked Byrnes who has had an outstanding season so far in his second year at the academy.

"I am finding the Youth League quite easy, there aren't really many attackers that have impressed me," he said.

When pushed he nominated Marconi's Mark Hagger as someone who has been playing well but insisted that he had no problems against

Marconi Youth.

The key to this confidence is the strength, speed and power he has developed under the academy programme.

He is the second quickest in the squad over 20 metres clocking in at 2.86 seconds - just two hundredths behind winger Shane Cansdell Sheriff, one of those being courted by Leeds United.

Byrnes does 0.96 seconds for 5 metres - a great asset for tracking international strikers.

Byrnes was not impressed initially with the ITC but now reflects that the programme has value.

"The main benefits are the wide range of resources there," he says.

"They offer weights, sprint coaches, sport psychologists, careers advice, help with work and help with homework.

"Everything is at your fingertips.

Now at 77 kg and 180 cm he is looking the part.

On being selected for the Young Socceroos Byrnes remains remarkably passive.

"It hasn't sunk in yet. It all happened so quick," he said.

A reference to Les Scheinflug's last minute decision to call him up for the second Korean game.

Scheinflug had been well aware of Byrnes form and when he was presented with a shortage of defenders he had no hesitation in including him.

"Les had told me that he liked my consistent form, not really spectacular but always there," he said.

John Curran summed up Byrnes when he said: "Mark is level-headed, his attitude is that this selection is just part of the job, another point along the way to his goal of professional football.

"He will be looking at the next step, what's after this, but in a quiet, unassuming way."

Father John Byrnes

Player PROFILE

Height: 180cm

Weight: 77 kg

DOB: 8.2.82

20m sprint: 2.86 seconds

5m sprint: 0.96 seconds

Ambitions: Joey's squad (achieved), Young Socceroos (achieved), Professional football

Favourite NSL player: Gabrielle Mendez, Dominic Longo - "he looks commanding" and Mark Babic

Best computer game: FIFA '98

Club: NSW Academy of Sport ITC

School: Concord High

INSIDE SOCCER Australia's soccer Bible

Anissa to lead Tillies in Algarve Cup



By Ted Simmons

AUSTRALIA will get a perfect opportunity to judge its women's soccer World Cup chances after a favourable draw for this month's prestigious Algarve Cup in Portugal.

The 18-member Australian squad, which was announced by national coach Greg Brown,

left for Portugal on Saturday.

Australia has been drawn in Group B along with China, Denmark and Portugal while Group A will consist of the United States, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

"The draw is perfect for our preparation for the World Cup finals in the United States in

June this year," said Brown whose team will face Sweden, China and Ghana in the World Cup.

"You couldn't get closer to our World Cup draw if you tried.

"Sweden is very similar in style and experience to Denmark, Portugal will be like Ghana and we have China in both so it's a good trial for the world

championship."

Brown has selected only one newcomer to the squad with the inclusion of 17-year-old ACT midfielder Peita-Claire Hepperlin following the sidelining of key midfielder Alison Forman for eight weeks with a knee injury.

Hepperlin was first selected into the Olympic Athlete Program squad in December and has since been training with the AIS-based Matildas.

"She plays ahead of her

years and proved in the

Australia B match against

Canada that's she

is capable of playing her

normal game against very

good opposition," said Brown. The squad will be led by highly experienced Anissa Tann-Darby (63 caps), Sonia Gegenhuber (57), Julie Murray (53) and Lisa Casagrande (48).

Australia will start the

tournament against Denmark on March 14, followed by Portugal and China before the play-offs commence on March 20. It is the first time Australia has been invited to compete in the Algarve Cup which is hosted annually by the Nordic countries and held in the warmer climate in Portugal. The event is regarded as the third highest tournament in women's soccer behind the Olympic Games and the World Cup.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 6

Saturday 13th March

Blacktown City Demons v Leichhardt Tigers

Gabbie Stadium, 6:00pm

Central Coast v Ryde City

Plum Park, 6:00pm

Sutherland Sharks v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Seymour Shaw, 7:00pm

Macarthur Rams v Bankstown City Lions

Lynwood Park, 7:00pm

Sunday 14th March

Eastern Suburbs v Fairfield Bulls

Wentworth Park, 5:00pm

Canterbury-Marrickville v Parramatta Eagles

Henson Park, 6:00pm

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Wynnum run riot with three goals at Rochedale

By Howard Warren

IN THE opening exchanges in Friday night's match at Underwood Park, a small crowd watched the visitors Wynnum edging the major share of possession in this Round 3 Queensland Premier League fixture.

This was a little surprising after Wynnum had lost their first two games at home.

Rochedale Rovers, in turn, had registered their first victory the previous week away to Bundaberg.

All this changed in the twelfth minute when Garry Brattan took a corner from the left and found Steve Fitzsimmons head in a melee of players.

One-nil to Rovers.

Moments later a Wynnum move involving Scott Moreland and Nick Hadland caught Rovers keeper Graham Ross out of position but the situation was saved by good covering from Alun Evans who headed the ball over his own goal for a corner.

In the twenty third minute a good pass from Steve Fitzsimmons allowed Kieran Cooper to force his way into the Wynnum penalty area where his effort was too strong for Jason Milligan.

A minute later Rovers were three nil up when a corner taken by Evans found an unmarked David Pilic who had no difficulty finding the target with his head.

A measure of

Wynnum's defensive capability could be gathered by the statistics - three Rovers corners, two goals.

On the half-hour Clayton Koch latched onto a through ball from Cooper and with only the goalkeeper to beat he uncharacteristically lashed the ball high and wide.

The next attack on the Wynnum goal came through Cooper once more who hurried his shot after a build up involving David Pilic.

Ten minutes from half time Matt Olley replaced Koch who was carrying an injury prior to the game.

Scott Moreland decided to warn Ross that Wynnum still had something to offer with a good shot on the turn which was met with a fine save from Ross in full flight.

In the forty-third minute Ditton found himself in Mr Eldridge's notebook for a scything tackle on Aaron Thiesfield.

On the stroke of half time a clash of heads with Ross Davidson resulted in Steve Forshaw being led from the field.

The second half commenced in a sedate manner until Adam Filate became the second booking for a wrestling match with Evans.

The following minute and Rovers were four goals up when a loose ball on the edge of Wynnum's penalty area found ex-Brisbane Striker

Ditton who hit a fine shot beyond the reach of Jason Milligan.

This heralded the end of Wynnum's Scott Moreland and the arrival of Scott Rocker.

Within minutes Rocker nearly scored when his shot unluckily hit the post.

Almost immediately Rovers returned the compliment when from a corner the ball was helped on by Pilic to Fitzsimmons who turned and hit his shot against the cross bar.

Another foul on Evans resulted in a booking this time for Shane Gilroy, which seemed harsh after a number of thunderous tackles had not stirred Mr Eldridge.

A totally justified booking was to follow when Tony McKinless needlessly flattened David Pilic.

In the twenty first minute Wynnum replaced Filate with Travers-Jones.

Another stag run by Cooper resulted in his shot being stopped on the Wynnum goal-line.

But Wynnum were now picking up their game and a strong run by Anthony Roche gave Travers-Jones a chance but his shot hit the Rovers post.

Too late it may have been for Wynnum but at least they were starting to unravel the plot.

The long ball down the middle was easy pickings for the big men in the Rovers defence.

The short ball was more effective and with



Garry Brattan: former Heidelberg star now playing in the QPL

Roche showing once again that he can be a quality player were at last troubling Rovers defence.

Surprisingly with Wynnum having more possession Evans left side midfield was replaced by Nick Alidene, an orthodox winger.

On the half hour

Cooper created a good opportunity for David Pilic who shot wide while handily placed inside the Wynnum penalty area.

Three minutes Pilic again failed to take a straightforward opportunity when a good ball from Fitzsimmons found him wanting.

The last ten minutes

reinforced the view that if Wynnum had left their up and under game at home at Boundary Street they would have troubled Rovers considerably more than they had for most of the game.

This was surprising with Peter Tokes, ex-assistant coach of the Brisbane Strikers, at the helm.

With a wealth of QPL experience he would have been expected to ensure that the large men in the Rovers defence did not have the ball delivered straight to them.

Next week Rovers are away to Gold Coast and Wynnum away to Brisbane Lions.

RAINSFORD CUP WINNERS	1908	Pyrmont	1931	West Wallsend	1953	Auburn	1974	APIA Leichhardt
1885 Granville	190	Adamstown	1932	Weston	1954	Corrimal	1975	St George
1886 Granville	1910	HMS Powerful	1933	St George	1955	Leichhardt-Annandale	1976	Western Suburbs
1887 Hamilton Athletic	1911	Balmain	1934	Weston	1956	Leichhardt-Annandale	1977	Bonnyrigg White Eagles
GARDINER CUP	1912	Balmain	1935	Metters	1957	Wallsend	1978	Sutherland
1888 Caledonians	1913	Leichhardt-Annandale	1936	Weston	1958	Awaba	1979	Sydney City
1889 Pyrmont Rangers	1914	Granville	1937	Wallsend	KENNARD CUP (NSWSF)		1980	Sydney Olympic
1890 Pyrmont Rangers	1915	Balmain	1938	Metters	1957	Hakoah	1981	Sutherland
1891 Parkgrove	1916	no competition	1939	Weston	1958	Canterbury	1982	St George
1892 Minmi Rangers	1917	no competition	1940	Metters	AMPOL CUP (NSWSF)	1983	Marconi	
1893 Pyrmont Rangers	1918	Weston	1941	Leichhardt-Annandale	1959	Prague	1984	St George
1894 Pyrmont Rangers	1919	Balmain Fernleigh	1942	Wallsend	1960	St George	1985	Blacktown City
1895 Balmain	1920	Balmain Fernleigh	1943	Merewether Athletic	1961	Prague	1986	Sydney United
1896 Balmain	1921	West Wallsend	1944	Merewether Athletic	1962	Prague	STATE BANK CUP	
1897 Balmain	1922	Granville	STATE LEAGUE CUP (NSWSA)		1963	Yugal	1987	Sydney United
1898 Pyrmont Volunteers	1923	West Wallsend	1943	Leichhardt Annadale	1964	Prague	CHALLENGE CUP	
1899 Pyrmont Rangers	1924	West Wallsend	1944	Wallsend	1965	Prague	1989	Canberra Croatia
1900 West Wallsend	1925	Adamstown	1945	West Wallsend	1966	APIA	WARATAH CUP	
1901 West Wallsend	1926	West Wallsend	1946	Canterbury-Bankstown	1967	St George	1991	Blacktown City
1902 Pyrmont Rovers	1927	Gladesville Ryde	1947	Corrimal Rangers	1968	Hakoah	1992	Avala
1903 Pyrmont	1928	Thirroul	1948	Leichhardt-Annandale	1969	Prague	1993	Blacktown City
1904 Granville	STATE CUP		1949	Leichhardt-Annandale	1970	APIA	1994	Bankstown City
1905 Balmain	1928	Aberdale	1950	Wallsend	1971	West Subs	1995	Sydney United
1906 Glebe	1929	Cessnock	1951	Granville	1972	St George	1996	Sydney United
1907 Broadmeadow RA	1930	Adamstown	1952	Wallsend	1973	Hakoah	1997	Wollongong City

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND-UP

With Roy Hay

SOUTHERN DIVISION
Knights v Bulleen
 ONLY two games in Round 23 were played in the Southern Division this week.

Melbourne Knights beat Bulleen Inter Kings by five goals to one at Anderson Park on Wednesday night.

Hrvoje Matkovic put the Knights in front after eight minutes, then Jonathan Corso equalised ten minutes later, only for Ante Deak to restore the Knights' lead inside a minute.

There it stayed until Steven Tillinger's penalty made it three-one for the Knights in the 59th minute. Serdar Bol was next to score in 71 and Chris Tabak scored the last goal with two minutes to play.

Robert Bresciano of Bulleen got his marching orders in 76 minutes, and three of the Knights scorers came from Geelong, while Matkovic played with North Geelong in the State League.

Albury v Carlton
 Albury Wodonga held Carlton scoreless till the last ten minutes of their

game at Myrtleford, but eventually the Blues found a way of stretching the home defence and got telling crosses in from which Deniz Ekici and David Debevc scored late goals.

Albury keeper Sam Chambers was in outstanding form once again.

South v VIS
 South Melbourne and the VIS will play their

Round 23 match on 31 March at Bob Jane Stadium. Gippsland Falcons had the bye.

NORTHERN DIVISION
Olympic v Spirit
 Sydney Olympic had a comfortable three-nil win over Northern Spirit Colts with all the goals coming in the first 25 minutes or thereby.

Carlos Gonzalez was first to score in 8 minutes, followed by Ali Jomaa in 18 and Adrian Totaro in 26.

Coach Peter Papanikitas gave his younger players a run in the second half, while the Colts lifted their game and prevented any further score.

Spirit v Marconi
 Northern Spirit needed an own goal by Marconi Fairfield Colts to give it its one-nil win at Cromer Park.

NSWIS v United
 NSWIS beat Sydney United by three goals to one at Edensor Park.

Simon Catanzaro opened for the Institute in 20 minutes and Steve Jordan equalised four minutes later.

It stayed at one-all till after an hour had been played, then Liam Austin put the Institute ahead and Simon Catanzaro scored his second to ensure the result.

Anthony Doumanis's penalty was brilliantly saved by United keeper Milko Topic, but Doumanis otherwise had an excellent game as did Nauel Arrarte and Mark Byrnes who is in the

Leading goalscorers

(Southern Division)
 Andrew Mashoian (South Melbourne) 15
 Scott McDonald (VIS) 7
 Tony Ouliaris (Carlton) 7
 Erhan Bayraktar (South Melbourne) 7

(Northern Division)
 Mark Hagger (Marconi) 17
 Simon Catanzaro (NSWIS) 16
 Daniel Kukucka (Sydney United) 14
 Kevo Gulessarian (AIS) 14
 Elias Demourtzidis (AIS) 12
 Russell Miner (QAS) 11

Forthcoming matches

Southern Division
Saturday 13 March 1999
 Bulleen v Gippsland (Anderson Park, 4 pm)
Sunday 14 March 1999
 Carlton v South Melbourne (Olympic Park, 3 pm)
 Melbourne Knights v Albury Wodonga (Knights Stadium, 5 pm)
 VIS v Bye
Northern Division
Saturday 13 March
 Marconi v Newcastle (Marconi Stadium, 5 pm)
 AIS v Sydney Olympic Academy (AIS Soccer Field, 7 pm)
 Sydney United Colts v Northern Spirit Colts, (Edensor Park, 5 pm)
Sunday 14 March 1999
 NSWIS v ACTAS, (Valentine Park, 6 pm)
 Marconi Colts v QAS (Marconi Stadium, 5 pm)
 Wollongong v Sydney United (Brandon 4 pm)
 Sydney Olympic v Wollongong Wolves Colts (Belmore Sports Ground, 4 pm)

Young Socceroo squad.

Wolves v QAS

Wollongong Wolves had a fine three-nil away win over the QAS.

Gerald Quennet scored twice for the Wolves, the first coming in 40 minutes and the second in 75, just a minute after Michael Clare had scored the second for the Wolves.

Olympic v United

Sydney Olympic Academy and Sydney United Colts drew two-each at Wentworth Park.

Chris Seitis scored both goals for the Academy, while Monte Pfeiffer and Frank Iorlino scored for the Colts.

Marconi v Wolves

Marconi Fairfield had an eight-nil romp against Wollongong Wolves Colts.

Luke Tomich com-



Sydney Olympic's Carlos Gonzalez

pleted a hat-trick in 27, Hakan Celik, Devrim Huseyin, Mark Hagger and Mauro van Cuylenberg, scored the others in 15, 48 and 65 minutes, and 73, 50, 62 and 54 minutes respectively.

Indoor soccer: rapid growth

THE Australian Indoor Soccer (Five-a-Side) Association was formed three years ago when it separated from the Australian Futsal Federation.

In that time the Association has grown to such an extent that there are now almost 30 centres throughout NSW and Queensland playing Indoor Soccer.

All the Indoor Soccer Clubs operating out of these Centres are affiliated with the NSW Soccer Federation and the Association's Head Office is in the same com-

plex at Glenwood.

The NSW State Titles were held in Wollongong in November 1988 with over 100 teams taking part.

This was followed by the Elite Inter-Club competition in December which was held at the State Sports Centre at Homebush known as the 'Rebel Challenge' for all the junior competitions and the 'Gold Cup' and 'Silver Shield' for All Age Men and Women.

This competition highlighted the best players in the best teams at the best

venue

The Sydney City team from the Bonnyrigg Indoor Soccer Centre took out the major Gold Cup in the All Age men's division when they defeated the Hills Commodores from the Kellyville Club.

1999 got off to a great start with the Australian Championships held at Windsor in January.

The three day event had nearly 200 teams competing from State, Regional and Club divisions.

Queensland had 17 teams represented and booked out the accommodation at the MSWSF's Glenwood HQ.

As well as the club competition run through-

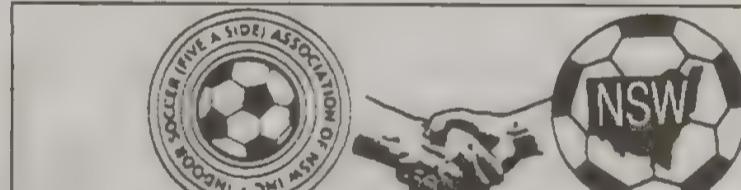
out the centres, there is an ever increasing schools competition running in Queensland and NSW.

Playing at 10 centres in New South Wales alone, the teams compete in Zone, Regional and then State titles which culminate in players being secretary to represent their State and/or Country in representative teams to tour overseas.

Indoor Soccer is growing and growing rapidly.

It is played no matter what the weather conditions are, day or night, and improves ball skills as well as keeping players fit.

It is an ideal supplement to any outdoor training programme.



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Kellyville	9629 1518	Rockdale	9556 3386
Leumeah	4626 1700	Rooty Hill	9832 0567
Lidcombe	9654 2311	Windsor	4577 5931

COUNTRY

Coniston	4229 4901	Oak Flats	4256 4515
Gosford	4325 0107	Shoalhaven	4448 6091
Newcastle	4954 5305	Terrigal	4977 1350
		North Wollongong	4226 2820

For further information contact the
 Secretary ISA NSW on 9626 0052 or 0414 930 309
 or SOCCER NSW on 9629 1800

Bell breathes life into Strikers

FORMER young Socceroo defender Matt Bell breathed life back into the Brisbane Strikers' Ericsson Cup finals hopes with his first National League goal against Wollongong Wolves at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

Bell, 21, was making only his 30th National League appearance when he broke a 76th minute deadlock to give the Strikers a deserved 1-0 win. Bell's match-winner came with a thundering header off a cross from Socceroo midfielder Kasey Wehrman who reverted back to the strikers' role after a brief stint in midfield.

The Strikers' win keeps them in touch with the Top Six after starting the match five points adrift in ninth spot.

Pogliacomi saves penalty but Wolves finals hopes gone

The Strikers should have made the result more comfortable, but Wehrman missed a costly penalty after only 11 minutes.

Wehrman's miss, his second after a similar mistake three weeks ago against Carlton, came after Melbourne referee Eugene Brazzale ruled the striker was brought down in the box by Wollongong keeper Les Pogliacomi.

Typical of the Strikers' frustrations was a powerful header by lanky defender Steve Laybutt who surged forward three minutes from the break to head a Wehrman corner down low on to the

net.

As was the case against the Knights, the Strikers dominated for lengthy periods but their customary lack of finishing was again to the fore.

The Strikers had five close chances in the opening half to lead the visitors, but on each occasion their shots either went astray or were denied by Pogliacomi.

The match looked like being a repeat of the Strikers' frustrating 0-all draw last week against the Melbourne Knights until Bell's win-

upright.

Pogliacomi also helped to keep the scoresheet blank with a brilliant save on the half hour when he dived to deny a deflected shot from Strikers forward Stu McLaren.

Strikers' keeper Clint Bolton was tested on the odd occasion but none better than in the 56th minute when he was denied by striker Scott Chipperfield on two occasions in a matter of seconds. Bolton was again called on midway through the second half saving a thundering shot from substitute Sasho Dimoski who came on for Paul Reid.

The loss by Wollongong keeps them in the bottom half of the table on 24 points with only seven matches remaining.

BRISBANE STRIKERS 1 (Bell)
WOLLONGONG CITY WOLVES 0
Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Man of the Match: Leslie Pogliacomi WOLL



Leslie Pogliacomi: a great game but it wasn't enough

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Clacka grabs timely goal with Petkovic fabulous

NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (Zane)
ADELAIDE CITY 0
Venue: North Sydney Oval
Man of the Match: Jason Petkovic ADLC

By Anthony Raineri

A SUPERB header by Olyroo Clayton Zane earned Northern Spirit a precious 1-0 win over Adelaide City in the National Soccer League at North Sydney Oval on Friday night.

With seven rounds to go Spirit now looks like staying in the Top Six after overpowering the dangerous South Australians in front of 15,104 spectators.

Spirit could have won by several goals but for the outstanding form of Adelaide's Socceroo goalkeeper Jason Petkovic.

Adelaide could have scored in the first minute when striker Damian Mori's header was cleared off the line by new signing Matthew Bingley.

Spirit regrouped and soon took control of the match without ever looking back.

In the 29th minute, defender Luke Casserly floated a corner to the near post where Zane outjumped his marker to flick the ball across goal and into the net.

Zane, who has only scored two goals this season, had an outstanding match and could have earned a hat-trick in the second half.

In the 70th minute, a Zane header was going in but

Petkovic's hand appeared from nowhere to parry the ball.

Less than 10 minutes later the 21-year-old former Newcastle player struck a lethal shot from outside the box requiring Petkovic to tip the ball over the bar.

Spirit captain and former

before passing to an unmarked Slater.

The former English Premier League player lined up a shot but missed the target.

Spirit captain coach Graham Arnold made a match saving tackle on Adelaide's Carl Veart as the South Australian was about to shoot from close range.

Spirit's victory was all the more meritorious in light of the 11th hour withdrawals because of injury of key midfielders Kresimir Marusic and Paul Biloškapić.

Coach Arnold heaped praise on Zane and said he had originally planned not to play him.

"Clayton had a bad game last week but I decided to give him one last chance," Arnold said.

"I have stuck by him all season and no one deserved a goal more than him."

Arnold said he was thankful of his team's Top Six position.

"We have a bye next week and no matter what happens with other will still be in the Top Six."

"About 44 points should get us in (the finals) but I'm aiming for 47 especially since three of our next four games will be at home."



Socceroo Robbie Slater also rued a missed goal opportunity.

Midfielder Gabriel Mendez dispossessed Bradley Armour in Adelaide's half and raced towards the goal



Jason Petkovic: the Socceroo keeper was outstanding in holding Spirit at bay.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE



Round 24: 13/14 March

Saturday 13 March

Marconi Fairfield v Newcastle Breakers
Marconi Stadium 7.00pm

Sunday 14 March

Adelaide City v Brisbane Strikers
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.00pm

Sydney Olympic v Adelaide Sharks
Belmore Sports Ground 6.00pm

Perth Glory v Gippsland Falcons
Perth Oval 4.00pm

Carlton v South Melbourne
Optus Oval 5.00pm

Wollongong Wolves v Sydney United
Brandon Park 6.30pm

Melbourne Knights v Canberra Cosmos
Knights Park 3.00pm

Bye: Northern Spirit

NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs.

ASF (02) 9380 6099, Adelaide City (08) 8336 9077, Adelaide Sharks (08) 8351 9866, Brisbane Strikers (07) 3252 5327, Carlton (03) 9389 6213, Canberra Cosmos (02) 6281 7981, Gippsland Falcons (03) 5134 5529, Marconi Fairfield (02) 9823 2222, Melbourne Knights (03) 9699 4188, Newcastle Breakers (02) 4951 2722, Northern Spirit (02) 9460 2187, Perth Glory (08) 9383 9911, South Melbourne (03) 9645 9797, Sydney Olympic (02) 9558 5355, Sydney United (02) 9823 6418, Wollongong City (02) 4226 3988

Stallions grab important away win

By Sam Lienert

TWO goals by captain Brad Maloney gave Marconi an important 3-2 away NSL win against the Adelaide Sharks at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday.

The victory kept Marconi well in touch with the top six, the three points taking it into seventh spot on the NSL ladder and within one premiership point of sixth-placed Adelaide City.

Marconi looked shaky for the opening 15 minutes of the match with Adelaide's Alex Castro having an excellent shot on goal in the opening 30 seconds, set up by a quality long ball from Ritchie Alagich with his first touch of the match.

The Sharks continued

to attack until Corey Arnone scored with a brilliant 25-metre strike in the 11th minute to give the home side a one-nil lead.

Adelaide appeared in form to end its 10-week winless streak but lost confidence when Maloney levelled the scores in the 24th minute after getting on the end of a well-executed set piece.

Marconi won a free kick about 20 metres from goal and Brendan Renaud faked a shot on goal, Marcus Phillips chipped the ball into Kris Trajanovski in the box,

who set up Maloney for a clean right-foot strike.

The visitors gained in confidence and Chad Gibson gave his side a two-one lead four minutes later when he easily headed home a well-placed Renaud cross from deep on the left side.

The Sharks came out with renewed purpose after half-time and again looked the better side in the opening 15 minutes, levelling the scores at two-all through substitute Joel Porter.

But Maloney again scored against the flow of play 27 minutes into the

half with a superb individual goal to grab the three-two victory.

Maloney ran between four tentative defenders into the middle of the box and struck the ball to the right of goalkeeper Nathan Wildy, giving him no chance for a save.

Adelaide coach Adrian Santrac said his team had decreased its effort after scoring the opening goal - a result of going for so long without a win.

"We scored and then we stopped, it is not uncommon for teams that have been down and

ADELAIDE SHARKS 2 (Arnone, Porter)
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 3 (Maloney 2, C Gibson)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Man of the Match: Brad Maloney MARC



Brad Maloney: the Stallions skipper was at the heart of an important win

feeling the pressure of "Had we continued to not having won," he said. play and continued the same momentum it would have kept going."

Falcons dent Olympic's hopes

SYDNEY Olympic suffered a severe dent to its national soccer league hopes when it lost 1-0 to a 10-man Gippsland Falcons at Mobil Park on Sunday night.

The defeat dropped Olympic down a spot in the Ericsson Cup table to fifth and virtually put an end to club hopes of making the top two to earn the double chance in the finals.

Coach Branko Culina also blasted the players, stating a number of them did not earn their pay packet on the night.

"We went from out-playing the best team in the country in last week's match against South Melbourne to losing against one of the worst sides in the league playing with 10 men for over 50 minutes," Culina said.

"There are no excuses - we don't deserve to make any excuses when we play that badly."

Gippsland lost Marko Perinovic five minutes before half time after the striker committed two bookable offences in a matter of two minutes.

It left the Falcons with lone striker Brian MacNicol up-front and having to contend with wave after wave of Olympic attacks in the second half.

But in one swift break-away in the 65th minute, Will Hastie made ground down the right and supplied a pinpoint cross for MacNicol to head home.

Culina made an immediate change bringing on Leo Carle as an additional striker but Gippsland survived Olympic's onslaught for the remainder of the game.

Sweeper Levent Osman was Gippsland's hero making a goal-line save from a shot by Carle.

It could have been so different if Olympic had converted its first chance of the game when Norman Tome broke through the middle only to see his shot come off the crossbar.

Falcons had another lucky escape in a corner kick situation after 37 minutes when keeper Bojo Jevdjevic missed with his attempt to cut out a

Mehmet Durakovic header allowing the ball to trickle dangerously across an open goal before a Falcons defender cleared it.

Gippsland had few clear-cut

chances but came close at the end of the first half when Andy Vargas got on the end of a cut-back by Michael Katz only to have his shot blocked.



Marko Perinovic: got his marching orders in Morwell

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1 (MacNicol)
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0
Venue: Falcons Stadium
Man of the Match: Bojo Jevdjevic GIPS

Griffith's double keeps United's hopes alive

By Ted Simmons

YOUNG Socceroo Joel Griffiths snatched the perfect tour present when his two goals in eight minutes presented Sydney United with a 2-1 win over Melbourne Knights at the United Sports Centre on Sunday afternoon.

Griffiths and striking partner Mile Sterjovski leave next week with the Australian team for the World U-20 Championships in Nigeria.

The goals were timely for United, which had struggled against a fiery Melbourne Knights who took the lead in the seventh minute.

Midfielder Alex Kiratzoglou slipped a pass to Ante Deak whose shot was spilled by

United face up to life without 'Wonder-kids'

made all the running and Mitchell will have major problems finding replacements for them during their probable seven weeks absence.

Defender David Barrett started the move which led to the equaliser when he found Sterjovski on the left whose shot across the goal was picked up by the unmarked

of position but were unable to finish off their chances.

Knights substitute Paul Magdic ran in the clear in the 61st minute and his cross gave Ivan Kelic the opportunity to level the score, but his header went wide from in front of goal.

A similar chance was lost in the 74th minute when Michael

SYDNEY UNITED 2 (Griffiths 2)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 (Susa)
Venue: Edensor Park
Man of the Match: Joel Griffiths SUTD

United keeper Mike Gibson with Zeljko Susa netting the rebound.

"We were making it tough for ourselves and the Knights made it difficult," said United coach David Mitchell after the match.

"They could have been a couple of goals up before we scored.

"We'll sadly miss the two strikers and wish them well and I know they will play for Australia."

Griffiths and Sterjovski

Griffiths.

The 19-year-old speedster made sure of his attempt and was also on the spot four minutes before halftime to put United in front.

Sterjovski was the instigator for this goal when he found the running Steve Berry who put Griffiths in the clear to angle the ball into the left corner of the goal.

The revival was a complete change to the first 20 minutes when the Knights frequently caught the United defence out

Reda floated a chip from 20 metres with Gibson off his line, but the ball drifted wide.

United had several second half opportunities and Mitchell was critical after the game of the finishing efforts, saying that his strikers had to be more clinical.

Berry ran free into the penalty area but had his attempt deflected for a corner and substitute Danny Townsend met a similar result when his header was blocked by the Knights keeper.



UTS SYDNEY OLYMPIC v ADELAIDE SHARKS

Belmore Sportsground
Sunday 14 March
6.00pm kick off*



*Please check daily press for changed times

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NEW SOUTH WALES

SUPER LEAGUE: First Grade, Round 5

March 6/7
Fairfield Bulls 1 Parramatta Eagles 0
M Borg 53

Bonnyrigg 0 Macarthur Rams 1
R Lloyd 16

Ryde City 2 Sutherland Sharks 3
C Sharpley 18 L Stephen 29, 39
J Koch 56 C Hobbs 87

Bankstown City Lions 4 Eastern Suburbs 1
R Luksic 15 N Imaya 88
S van Bentuim 63, 75
R Issa 64

Leichhardt Tigers 3 Central Coast 0
C Lansdowne 40
T Badzaric 85
H Kdoub 87

Canterbury M'ville 2 Blacktown City 2
A Markopoulos 65
A Holst 84

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Macarthur Rams	5	4	1	0	12	6	13
Leichhardt Tigers	5	3	1	1	12	5	10
Fairfield Bulls	5	3	1	1	9	7	10
Bankstown City	5	3	0	2	13	10	9
Blacktown City	5	3	0	2	8	5	9
Bonnyrigg	5	2	1	2	12	10	7
Parramatta Eagles	5	2	1	2	4	6	7
Central Coast	5	2	1	2	6	10	7
Canterbury Marrickville	5	1	2	2	10	8	5
Sutherland Sharks	5	1	1	3	6	12	4
Ryde City	5	0	2	3	7	11	2
Eastern Suburbs	5	0	1	4	5	14	1

SUPER LEAGUE: Second Grade, Round 5

March 6/7
Fairfield Bulls 0 Parramatta Eagles 5
Bonnyrigg 3 Macarthur Rams 2
Ryde City 1 Sutherland Sharks 1

Bankstown City Lions 2 Eastern Suburbs 0
Leichhardt Tigers 1 Central Coast 3
Canterbury M'ville 2 Blacktown City 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bonnyrigg WE	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
Canterbury M'ville	5	3	1	1	10	5	10
Macarthur Rams	5	3	0	2	11	8	9
Eastern Suburbs	5	3	0	2	6	6	9
Parramatta Eagles	5	2	2	1	13	9	8
Central Coast	5	2	2	1	10	8	8
Blacktown City	5	2	1	2	9	8	7
Fairfield Bulls	5	2	0	3	5	10	6
Ryde City	5	1	1	3	8	9	4
Leichhardt Tigers	5	1	1	3	9	14	4
Sutherland	5	1	1	3	6	11	4
Bankstown	5	1	1	3	5	11	4

SUPER LEAGUE: Youth Grade, Round 5

March 6/7
Fairfield Bulls 2 Parramatta Eagles 10
Bonnyrigg 0 Macarthur Rams 1
Ryde City 1 Sutherland Sharks 1
Bankstown City Lions 1 Eastern Suburbs 3
Leichhardt Tigers 1 Central Coast 1
Canterbury M'ville 2 Blacktown City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Macarthur Rams	5	4	0	1	8	3	12
Canterbury	5	3	2	0	14	7	11
Parramatta Eagles	5	3	1	1	19	5	10
Leichhardt	5	3	1	1	5	4	10
Blacktown City	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Ryde City	5	2	1	2	9	7	7
Bankstown City	5	2	0	3	11	14	6
Central Coast	5	1	1	3	7	10	4

Inside Soccer's TRIVIA MOMENTS Sponsored by SOCCERLINE

* Auburn won the first NSWSF Grand Final in 1957 beating Canterbury who had won the League Premiership.

NSW STATE

ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

	home	away						Pts
		P	W	D	L	F	A	
1 South Melbourne	21	9	1	0	23	8	4	14
2 Perth Glory	21	6	1	3	24	10	5	39
3 Sydney United	22	8	2	2	25	12	5	42
4 Northern Spirit	22	7	2	2	15	7	5	38
5 Sydney Olympic	21	8	2	1	25	9	2	35
6 Adelaide City	21	7	3	1	25	9	3	34
7 Marconi Fairfield	21	7	1	2	27	15	3	23
8 Brisbane Strikers	21	6	4	2	19	12	1	22
9 Carlton	21	7	2	2	29	12	2	21
10 Newcastle Breakers	21	4	4	3	14	13	2	27
11 Wollongong City	21	4	4	2	20	13	2	24
12 Adelaide Sharks	21	4	4	3	21	16	2	21
13 Gippsland Falcons	20	3	2	5	6	13	1	17
14 Melbourne Knights	21	2	2	6	13	16	3	17
15 Canberra Cosmos	21	2	0	9	8	19	0	8
								218

VICTORIA

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Pt.	Melbourne	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Pt. Melbourne	5	4	1	0	16	3	13	
Green Gully	5	4	1	0	14	9	13	
Bentleigh Greens	5	3	1	1	13	4	10	
Preston Lions	5	3	0	2	10	5	9	
Bulleen	4	2	2	0	8	4	8	
Melbourne Raiders	5	2	2	1	9	6	8	
St Albans	5	2	1	2	6	9	7	
Altona East	5	2	0	3	6	12	6	
South Dandenong	5	1	2	2	5	6	5	
Fawkner Blues	5	1	1	3	8	9	4	
Springvale	5	1	1	3	5	7	4	
Sunshine Georgies	4	1	0	3	3	8	3	
Westvale	4	0	2	2	5	12	2	
Altona Magic	4	0	0	4	1	15	0	

QUEENSLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Lions	3	3	0	0	10	3	9
Gold Coast	3	2	1	0	8	4	7
Taringa Rovers	3	2	0	1	8	2	6
Rochedale Rovers	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
Brisbane City	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Bundaberg Waves	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Ipswich Knights	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Mount Gravatt	3	0	2	1	5	7	2
Wynnum	3	0	0	3	1	9	0
Toowoomba United	3	0	0	3	2	11	0

ILLAWARRA

CORRIMAL LEAGUES CLUB CUP: Quarter Finals: Sunday 7 March

Lyaghis 3	Kembla Warra* 3
J Lewis 2	J Coelho
A Flack	F Cazzolli

*Kembla Warra won on penalties but a replay of the shoot-out will be held mid-week due to a technical error being made.

Port Kembla 4	Coniston Lions 1
A O'Brien	D Merola
I Pollari	
P Stanizzo 2	

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt

SCOREBOARD

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Tome 54
 Venue: Bruce Stadium
 Crowd: 2,420
 Referee: M Breeze
 CANB: Knezevic, T Popovich, L Wilson (Musitano 72), Zelic (Magnacca 68), Marcina, Buljan, Miglietti, Roberts, De Jesus, Gonzales, Hunter
 SOLY: Bouhoutsos, Thomas, Tsekenis, Tome (Juric 83), Culina, Cardozo, Emerton, Augerinos (Zorbas 70), Baillie, Durakovic, Blagojevic
 Cautions:
 CANB: Zelic (33), Roberts (37), Hunter (57)
 SOLY: Emerton (26), Cardozo (34), Augerinos (45)

ROUND 23
 Friday 5 March
 Northern Spirit 1 Adelaide City 0
 C Zane 28
 Venue: North Sydney Oval
 Crowd: 15,104
 Referee: E Lennie
 Cautions: none

Saturday 6 March
 Brisbane Strikers 1 Wollongong Wolves 0
 M Bell 76
 Venue: Suncorp Stadium
 Crowd: 4,320
 Referee: E Brazzale
 Cautions: M Bell (BS) 26', P Reid (WW) 42'

Sunday 7 March
 Adelaide Sharks 2 Marconi Fairfield 3
 C Artone 8 B Maloney 22, 71
 J Porter 61 C Gibson 25
 Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
 Crowd:
 Referee: J Blaney
 Cautions: B Maloney (MF) 29'; B Farah (MF) 45'; M Phillips (MF) 50'

Sydney United 2 Melbourne Knights 1
 J Griffiths 34, 40 I Kutlesovski 7
 Venue: Edensor Park
 Crowd: 2,118
 Referee: G Connolly
 Cautions: J Jolic (MK) 71', A Kovacevic (MK) 78'
 Gippsland Falcons 1 Sydney Olympic 0
 B MacNicol 66
 Venue: Mobil Park
 Crowd: 1,100
 Referee: B Panella
 Cautions: M Perinovic (GF) 40, C Bell (GF) 71'
 Red Card: M Perinovic (GF) 41'

Leading Ericsson Cup Scorers

17 Pablo CARDOZO (SOLY)
 12 Brad MALONEY (MARC)
 12 Damian MORI (ADL)
 11 Vaughan COVENY (SMEL)
 11 John MARKOVSKI (PRTH)
 11 Alex MOREIRA (CARL)
 11 Mile STERJOVSKI (SUTD)
 9 Michael CURCIJA (SMEL)
 8 Peter BULJAN (CANB)
 8 Joel GRIFFITHS (SUTD)
 8 Ivan KELIC (MELK)
 8 Archie THOMPSON (CARL, +4 GIPS)
 7 Con BOUTSIANIS (PRTH)
 7 Bobby DEŠPOTOVSKI (PRTH)
 7 Derek POIMER (ADSH)
 7 Kresimir MARUSIC (SPRT)
 7 Robbie SLATER (SPRT)
 7 Joe TRICARICO (CARL)
 6 Francis AWARITEFE (MARC)
 6 John GIBSON (ADSH)
 6 Brad HASSELL (ADLC)
 6 Norman TOME (SOLY)
 5 John ANASTASIADIS (SMEL)
 5 Jeremy HARRIS (BRIS)
 5 Sasho PETROVSKI (WOLL)
 5 Anthony SURJAN (WOLL)
 5 Kris TRAJANOVSKI (MARC)
 4 Zeljko BABIC (MARC)
 4 Marco BRESCIANO (CARL)
 4 John BUONAVOLIA (NEWC)
 4 Simon COLOSIMO (CARL)
 4 Alex DURIC (ADSH)
 4 Alistair EDWARDS (PRTH)
 4 Matt HORSLEY (WOLL)
 4 Sang-Choi YOON (NEWC)
 4 Ray YOUNIS (WOLL)
 3 Walter ARDONE (SUTD)
 3 Graham ARNOLD (SPRT)
 3 Corey ARTONE (ADSH)

3 Nathan DAY (SUTD)
 3 Michael GARCIA (PRTH)
 3 Chad GIBSON (MARC)
 3 Troy HALPIN (PRTH)
 3 Des HUGHES (BRIS)
 3 Chris KALANTZIS (SOLY)
 3 Vas KALOGERACOS (PRTH)
 3 Harry KARL (MELK)
 3 Lubo LAPSANSKY (CARL)
 3 Stephen LAYBUTT (BRIS)
 3 Goran LOZANOVSKI (SMEL)
 3 Stuart McLAREN (BRIS)
 3 Brian MacNICOL (GIPS)
 3 Dino MENNILLO (ADLC)
 3 Scott MILLER (PRTH)
 3 Levent OSMAN (GIPS)
 3 Greg OWENS (NEWC)
 3 Joel PORTER (ADSH)
 3 Reece TOLLENAERE (BRIS)
 3 Paul TRIMBOLI (SMEL)
 3 Carl VEART (ADLC)
 3 Daniel WATKINS (SPRT)
 2 Elias AUGERINOS (SOLY)
 2 Tansel BASER (SMEL)
 2 Paul BILOKAPIC (SPRT)
 2 Michael BROOKS (WOLL)
 2 Christian CARE (MARC)
 2 David CERVINSKI (MELK)
 2 Scott CHIPPERFIELD (WOLL)
 2 Sean CRANNEY (BRIS)
 2 Brett EMERTON (SOLY)
 2 Chay HEWS (BRIS)
 2 Ivo de JESUS (CANB)
 2 Ante JURIC (SOLY)
 2 Dongi Ki KIM (ADLC)
 2 Pan KIM (MARC)
 2 Ice KUTLESOVSKI (MELK)
 2 Andrew MARTH (CARL)
 2 Jason POLAK (SMEL)
 2 Shane PRYCE (NEWC)
 2 Paul REID (WOLL)
 2 Mark RUDAN (SPRT)
 2 Michael SANTALAB (SUTD)
 2 Mike SMITH (MARC)
 2 Zelko SUSA (MELK)
 2 Dino TERMINELLO (ADLC)
 2 Hamilton THORPE (ADSH)
 2 Danny VIDAKOVIC (ADSH)
 2 Andy VLAHOS (CARL)

2 Kasey WEHRMAN (BRIS)
 2 Mark WILSON (NEWC)
 2 Clayton ZANE (SPRT)
 2 Chris ZORICICH (BRIS)
 1 Richie ALAGICH (ADSH)
 1 Ransford BANINI (MELK)
 1 David BARRETT (SUTD)
 1 Sasho BECVINOVSKI (GIPS)
 1 Clayton BELL (GIPS)
 1 Matt BELL (BRIS)
 1 Peter BENNETT (SUTD)
 1 Steve BERRY (SUTD)
 1 Matt BINGLEY (SPRT)
 1 Vinko BULJUBASIC (PRTH)
 1 Jacob BURNS (SUTD)
 1 Nick CARLE (OLY)
 1 Joe CALETA (SUTD)
 1 Alex CASTRO (ADSH)
 1 Alvin CECCOLI (WOLL)
 1 Adrian CERVINSKI (SOLY)
 1 Giancarlo CIRCATI (PRTH)
 1 David CLARKON (SMEL)
 1 Ian CROOK (SPRT)
 1 Jason CULINA (SOLY)
 1 Michael CUNICO (SPRT)
 1 Saso DIMOSKI (WOLL)
 1 Steve EAGLETON (UTD)
 1 Robbie ENES (SPRT)
 1 Andy HARPER (BRIS)
 1 Will HASTIE (GIPS)
 1 Danny HAY (PRTH)
 1 Tommy HAYTHORNTHWAITE (NEWC)
 1 Kari HROVJE (MELK)
 1 Harry JAMES (NEWC)
 1 Alex JOSIFOVSKI (CARL)
 1 teve KARAVATAKIS (WOLL)
 1 Hrovje KARL (MELK)
 1 Alex KIRATZOGLOU (MELK)
 1 Leo LANGONE (CANB)
 1 Dominic LONGO (MARC)
 1 Darren McDONALD (MARC)
 1 Paul MAGDIC (MELK)
 1 Doug MARCINA (CANB)
 1 Esala MASI (WOLL)
 1 Robbie MARKOVAC (CARL)
 1 Nick MEREDITH (BRIS)
 1 Scott MILLER (PRTH)
 1 Branko MILOSEVIC (ADSH)
 1 David MITCHELL (SUTD)
 1 Gareth NAVEN (PRTH)



1 Jade NORTH (BRIS)
 1 Marko PERINOVIC (GIPS)
 1 Marcus PHILLIPS (MARC)
 1 Richard PLESA (SUTD)
 1 Tom PONDELJAK (MELK)
 1 Adem PORIC (SPRT)
 1 Joe RAHJER (MELK)
 1 Michael REDA (WOLL)
 1 Kosta SALAPASIDIS (WOLL)
 1 Robert SHANNON (NEWC)

1 Marcus STERGIOPoulos (CARL)
 1 Noel SPENCER (WOLL)
 1 Paul STRUDWICK (PRTH)
 1 Alex TOBIN (ADLC)
 1 Danny TOWNSEND (SUTD)
 1 Jim TSEKINIS (SMEL)
 1 Joe VRKIC (SUTD)
 1 Brad WIECZOREK (NEWC)
 1 Mark YATES (ADLC)

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